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Amir receives Saddam's message

Baghdad respects protocol banning use of poison gas

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 20. (Agencies): Iraq has said that it respects all international agreements, including the 1925 Geneva Protocol against the use of chemical weapons.

In a statement issued by the permanent mission, Iraq lashed out at the campaign orchestrated against Iraq by the United States and some of its Western allies "whose aims and motives have been unmasked by Iraqi officials."

Last Friday, Iraq refused to allow a UN team to investigate allegations of chemical weapons use against Iraqi Kurds.

Iraq said Turkish and French medical teams had sufficiently proven there was no basis in fact for these charges.

"In order to clarify any misunderstanding which might have arisen as a result of that campaign, the foreign minister reaf-

firmed that Iraq respects and abides by all provisions of international law and agreements accepted by the international community.

"This includes the Geneva Protocol of 1925 for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous and other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare, and other agreements within the framework of international humanitarian law," the statement said.

Support

Meanwhile, Iraq's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz delivered a message today to HH the Amir of Kuwait from President Saddam Hussein on recent Gulf developments and peace talks.

Aziz made a short visit to Kuwait today.

Aziz yesterday visited Saudi

Arabia, another key Gulf financial and political backer of Iraq, with a letter for King Fahd on peace talks with Iran.

A new round in the talks to end the eight-year-old Gulf war will soon begin in New York. The Amir of Kuwait is due in New York later this week to attend the new UN General Assembly session.

Aziz also held talks with Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on the general situation in the Gulf.

Kuwait provided political and other support to Iraq during the Gulf war.

Kuwait's support for Iraq against Iran invoked reprisals from Tehran which culminated in the firing of several Chinese-made Silkworm missiles at Kuwaiti oil installations.

The latest show of Kuwaiti

support for Iraq came last week, when the Gulf state summoned the US ambassador to the Foreign Ministry to protest at America's poison gas charges against Iraq.

Kuwait expressed its "deep concern" over the US Senate action to impose economic sanctions against Iraq, and said Washington's display of an "anti-Iraqi attitude will not lead to achieving lasting peace in the region."

Hailed

The first stage of the Iran-Iraq negotiations, which followed the Aug 20 ceasefire, ended in deadlock over sharp differences between the two countries on steps to be taken to consolidate the truce.

Before leaving Kuwait, Aziz hailed the Arab support for Iraq and said that the Arab leaders

who had stood by Iraq during the past years "are still working with the same enthusiasm."

On the date for the resumption of the Geneva talks, he said: "We are still waiting for the UN secretary-general to fix a date for the meeting in New York."

He reiterated Iraq was ready for just one meeting in New York after which the talks should resume in Geneva on an agreed date.

Jan Eliasson, the Swedish UN mediator at the peace talks, was chosen for the job after Iraq vetoed the appointment of a former Swiss president to the post, diplomatic sources in Geneva said today.

Originally UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had wanted to appoint Kurt Furgler, former Swiss president and finance minister, as his personal representative for the negotiations, the sources added.



People inspect the damage caused by a car bomb explosion in East Beirut. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tension rises as car bomb kills 5, injures 38 in Beirut

BEIRUT, Sept. 20. (Agencies): A car bomb tore through a bustling shopping centre in East Beirut today, killing five people and wounding 38 in violence fuelled by a political crisis over electing a new Lebanese President.

Tension has increased sharply with Christian and Muslim forces trying to impose their own candidates to succeed President Amin Gemayel, whose six-year term ends on Friday.

The crisis deepened after Christian leaders on Sunday rejected a Syrian-American agreement to appoint Maronite Christian Parliamentarian Mikhael Daher as the new President.

The 76 surviving members of the 99-seat Parliament are due to meet on Thursday to try and agree on Gemayel's successor.

Victims

Police said today's car bomb with 125 kg (275 pounds) of explosives went off at 9 am (0600 GMT) in the crowded Dora area teeming with pedestrians, shoppers and businessmen.

Some victims burned to death and others were torn apart. Red Cross workers picked up limbs from among charred cars in the debris-strewn street.

Army explosive expert Youssef Bitar said he was unable to

find parts from the bomb car. "There are at least five suspected cars which could have contained the explosives," he said.

But police said a man in his early 20s parked the car and fled minutes before the explosion.

Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen immediately closed the Museum crossing, the only link across the Green Line battlefield between Christian East Beirut and the Muslim West.

They used jeeps mounted with cannons to seal off roads to the bomb site and clear the way for rescue teams.

The blast was the fourth in Christian areas this year.

Crisis

Police said parliamentary Deputy Joseph Skaff was slightly wounded as his convoy passed through the area. His four bodyguards were also hurt and one bodyguard was in critical condition.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast.

Twelve car bombs have exploded in Lebanon this year, killing at least 108 people.

In Damascus, meanwhile, Lebanon's Druze leader Walid Jumblatt said the election crisis would get worse and lead to the

permanent division of the country.

If no new President is elected on Thursday, Gemayel would form a transitional government until rival factions agreed on a compromise candidate.

Pro-Syrian Muslim leaders have said they will only back the current cabinet headed by a Sunni Muslim.

Under Lebanon's unwritten national covenant, the President must be a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of Parliament a Shiite Muslim.

Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir met 27 Christian deputies today to discuss the deadlock.

They issued a statement urging an electoral session be held on Thursday as scheduled. But they said it should be moved from the old Parliament building in the deserted city centre which lies under Syrian control.

Parliamentary sources said the deputies at the meeting with Sfeir were inclined to back Raymond Edde to succeed Gemayel.

Their statement said they would consult Muslim leaders to agree on a consensus nominee. Christian deputies would meet

(Continued on Page 2)

BA to resume flights to Iran, Iraq

LONDON, Sept. 20. (AP): British Airways said today it is resuming flights to Iran and Iraq this winter because of the ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Flights to the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, suspended in the spring of 1987, will resume once a week via Cairo, Egypt, on Nov 2, the airline said.

A twice-weekly service to Tehran with a stopover in Cyprus will begin again after a three-year break on Dec 15, it said.

PLO won't form provisional government at present

TUNIS, Sept. 20. (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has dropped the idea of forming a provisional Palestinian government in the immediate future, two senior PLO officials said today.

But the PLO will advise the Palestinian National Council (PNC), the parliament-in-exile, next month to formally declare an independent Palestinian state with the boundaries proposed by the United Nations back in 1947, the officials said.

Canvassed

The idea of a provisional government — which would exist partly in exile and partly underground in Israeli-occupied territory — has been canvassed as a way to build on a 10-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

The aim of proclaiming an independent state would be to fill the legal vacuum left by King

Hussein of Jordan's decision in July to cut his country's legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

Palestinian leaders had previously indicated the PNC would take both steps at the same time. The decision not to do so reverses the prevalent trend of PLO thinking since July.

The PNC, which will meet in late October in Tunis, will probably pass a resolution giving the PLO and a smaller version of the PNC the power to announce a provisional government when they think the time is ripe, the senior officials said.

The state which the PNC is expected to declare will be based on the borders laid down in a United Nations resolution passed before the birth of the state of Israel.

It recommended the creation of two separate states in Palestine — one Jewish and one Arab.

The borders it proposed for the Arabs included areas which Israel annexed immediately upon its independence in 1948, plus the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which were captured in the Six Day War of 1967.

The decision to postpone the government idea follows weeks of complicated consultations between branches of the Palestinian movement and its Arab and other allies on how the movement should take advantage of the uprising.

The latest stage of the consultations took place over the weekend in Tunis, when the PLO executive committee, chaired by Yasser Arafat, met with Palestinian officials responsible for following events in the West Bank and Gaza.

The PLO officials, who asked to remain anonymous, said Palestinians felt they had to proceed cautiously.

Embarkation fee to be introduced

PASSENGERS flying from Kuwait Airport will soon have to pay KD 2 each as embarkation fee, State Minister for Services Affairs, Issa Al Mazidi said in an interview published yesterday.

The minister told a local newspaper the ministry studied the proposed fee which is now awaiting an endorsement decree to be issued by the authorities concerned.

Al Mazidi said diplomats and state guests would be exempt from the fee, which will be applicable to passengers of private planes.

Revenue

The fee proposal stemmed from the need for finding regular revenue to cover the expenses of the airport's repair, operation and maintenance, he said.

Mazidi denied reports that Kuwait will provide landing facilities to Concord planes at Kuwait Airport, but said that any official request will be examined.

Kuwait Airport received several Concord planes a few years ago but only on experimental flights.

Japan to ban export of chemicals

TOKYO, Sept. 20. (Reuters): Japan will ban the export to Iraq and Iran of three more chemicals, that can be made into poison, the Trade Ministry said today.

Six chemicals were banned earlier.

A Ministry of International Trade and Industry spokesman said the ministry plans to restrict exports of the nine chemicals to other countries in order to prevent them from flowing into Iran or Iraq through a third country.

The spokesman said the new measures did not come as a result of recent allegations by the United States that Japanese companies were involved in building a Libyan chemical weapons plant.

The Japanese government has denied those allegations.

US congressional sources said last Thursday that the Reagan administration believes Asian industrialists helped Libya build the plant. Washington this week said the plant was nearly ready for full-scale production.

Food reserve

ROME, Sept. 20. (Reuters): The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said today it had exhausted its emergency food reserve for 1988 and appealed for urgent contributions.

Executive director James Ingram called for aid from donor nations to meet at least 300,000 tonnes of food WFP says it needs before the end of the year.

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اگر آپ کو صحافت کی معلومات چاہیں تو

اعلیٰ حضرت امیر فرانس جا

رہیں

برا میں بنی حکومت کی

تھیں

اسرائیلی سارے پر عیرون

کا تدارق توشیح

کیت میں ازپرت بٹگیں

کافاز

آسٹریلیا کو ایک انگلرے

گلکست

پاکستان نے کیتیا کو ۸ گول

سے ہرا دیا

بیروت میں کار بم دھماکا

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will remain around normal with light variable to northerly wind.

State of sea: slight

High water: 9.00 pm

Low water: 2.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.36 am

Sunset: 5.46 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 47°C (106°F)

Ahmed: 39°C (102°F)

Fallaka: 36°C (97°F)

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 40°C (104°F)

Ahmed: 38°C (100°F)

Fallaka: 36°C (97°F)

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 22 per cent

Ahmed: 32 per cent

Fallaka: 45 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 24 per cent

Ahmed: 34 per cent

Fallaka: 47 per cent

Israel seals off territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Sept. 20. (Reuters): Israel closed airports, halted public transport and sealed off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today on the eve of the Jewish holy day of atonement, Yom Kippur.

Air traffic ceased at noon and public transport stopped in the early afternoon. Radio and television stations suspend broadcasts during the fast.

Any private vehicles in use during the holiday risk being stoned by religious Jews.

An Army spokesman said: "As on every Yom Kippur... residents of Judea, Samaria (the West Bank) and Gaza will not be allowed to enter Israel from 2.00 pm today until 8.00 pm tomorrow."

The armed forces remained on

alert, however, with memories of a surprise attack by Egyptian and Syrian forces on Yom Kippur in October 1973 that caught Israel off guard.

Some Israelis reflected on the Jewish state's handling of the nine-month-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli military rule in the territories, a day after Israel's successful launch of its first satellite into space.

In Gaza, meanwhile, troops shot and wounded an 11-year-old Palestinian boy in a clash with stone-throwing youths. Palestinian said. A Palestinian shot by troops last week has died of his wounds, an Army spokesman said today.

Palestinians said Imad Abu Thoria, 18, was shot while writing graffiti on walls in Gaza.

US reaffirms support of Palestinian rights

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (Reuters): The United States yesterday reaffirmed its support of Palestinian rights following a new demand for such a statement by a shadowy group holding three Americans and an Indian in Lebanon.

US officials, who asked not to be identified, said they regarded the demand as unusual but said they were uncertain whether it was a serious attempt to establish conditions that could lead to the release of the hostages.

"The United States position on Palestinian rights is clear and a matter of long-standing record articulated often," State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

He repeated statements made by Secretary of State George Shultz last Friday in his most recent comprehensive review of US policy towards the Middle East.

In that address, Shultz said "Palestinians need to achieve rapid control over political and economic decisions that affect their lives" and reassured that "Palestinian participation is required at every stage of the (Middle East peace) negotiations."

Shultz also admonished Israel that it must "find a way to respond to expressions of grievances... Palestinian political rights must also be recognised and addressed."

Medals table

SEOUL, Sept. 20. (Reuters): Medals table after the fourth day of the Olympics (tahulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Soviet Union	6	1	4
Unified Team	3	2	1
United States	2	1	2
East Germany	2	1	1
China	1	2	4
Romania	1	1	0
Czechoslovakia	1	1	0
Australia	1	0	1
Yugoslavia	1	0	0
Britain	1	0	0
Turkey	1	0	0
Italy	1	0	0
Sweden	0	2	1
South Korea	0	2	1
Poland	0	2	0
West Germany	0	1	2
Hungary	0	1	1
France	0	1	1
Japan	0	1	1
Finland	0	1	0
Belgium	0	0	1

Kabul holding W. Germans

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 20. (AP): Communist authorities in Kabul are holding a West German doctor and nurse who were captured on Sept 8 in southeastern Afghanistan, diplomatic sources said today.

They identified them as Dr Benno Spiliet and nurse Lea Hochstalt of the private aid organisation called the Committee of West German Emergency Doctors, also known as Capamur.

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two were being held under house arrest in the capital while authorities figure out what to do with them.

New government formed

RANGOON, Sept. 20. (Agencies): Coup leader Gen. Saw Maung formed a military-dominated government today, naming himself Defence chief and Foreign Affairs Minister, state-run radio announced.

No president or prime minister was named, and there still was no word on the fate of deposed President Maung Maung.

The announcement by Radio Rangoon came a day after street clashes between armed troops and demonstrators who hurled gasoline bombs and used slingshots and iron darts. At least 500 people have been reported killed in the capital and other cities.

The demonstrators had taken to the streets after Saw Maung seized power on Sunday night in a military coup that ousted Maung Maung, Burma's first civilian leader in 26 years.

Downtown Rangoon streets were free of demonstrations today for the first time since the protests and strikes that began on Aug 8 and toppled hard-line President Sein Lwin four days later.

Imposed

Residents abandoned the streets at the beginning of the 8 pm to 4 am (1230 to 2030 GMT) curfew imposed by Saw Maung.

Only a few small clashes were reported today between residents and troops clearing roadblocks put up by protesters, witnesses and local residents said. They said one person was shot to death as soldiers halted looting at a market in the city.

Witnesses also said sporadic clashes were reported in Mandalay in central Burma, but no details were available. Telephone communications were out after a

microwave dish was damaged in the morning.

Opposition leaders today demanded talks with Saw Maung.

Saw Maung was named both the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers in the new government. He was defence minister when he seized power from Maung Maung.

Only one of the nine cabinet ministers named was a civilian — Minister of Health Pe Thein. At least six ministers were among the 18 senior military officers who mounted the coup with Saw Maung.

The broadcast said the military commanders in each of the country's seven states and seven divisions also would serve as the top government representatives in those areas.

Military trucks rolled down the streets this morning with loudspeakers warning soldiers would shoot anyone building

(Continued on Page 2)

Price list for punches

LONDON, Sept. 20. (Reuters): The British government gave judges a price list for punches should be forced to pay compensation to people they had beaten up.

Recommended payments include £50 (\$84) for a graze, £100 (\$168) for a black eye and £1,750 (\$2,940) for a fractured jaw that needed to be wired together.

Trauma

"It is important that offenders should be made to take responsibility for the trauma they have caused their victim," said Junior Home Office Minister John Patten. "Even the poorest offender should be forced to pay up."

He said judges should not be deterred from issuing a compensation order even if there had not been a request for one by prosecutors.

Sri Lanka will free political detainees

COLOMBO, Sept. 20. (UPI): The Sri Lankan government has said it will release all political detainees and grant a general unconditional amnesty to all militants who lay down their arms, government source said.

There has been no response to the offer as yet from the rebel groups.

The release of political prisoners and the offering of amnesty to the rebels is a part of the terms of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord signed between the two nations on July 29, 1987 to halt ethnic violence between the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils, who have waged a civil war to form a separate state on the north of the island.

The government also made an announcement for candidates to

DAY BY DAY

WE thank the government for reducing the charges for electricity connections to chalets.

This is indeed a good decision as the available energy with the Ministry of Electricity and Water should be used before the generating machines are consumed, thus making the ministry and the government the only losers.

Will this decision be of a reversible nature? Some chalet owners paid the previous expensive charges and it may be a good idea to give these people the difference.

Zahed Matar

(Continued on Page 2)

INTERNATIONAL

Bonn
official
escapes
gunfire

BONN, West Germany, Sept. 20. (AP) An unknown gunman opened fire at a high-ranking Finance Ministry official today, striking his car but missing the official and his chauffeur, authorities said.

Hans Tietmeyer, State Secretary for the Finance Ministry, was travelling in his car through the Bonn suburb of Bad Godesberg when the shooting occurred, according to police.

"Shots were fired at Tietmeyer as he was driving to work this morning. A shot hit the car, but Tietmeyer was uninjured," Bonn police spokesman Helmut Engelke told the Associated Press. "Police blocked off the area and are now on a massive search for the criminals."

Another police official, who spoke on condition of not being identified, said the gunfire came from a nearby wooded area and that the weapon used was apparently a shotgun.

Tietmeyer's chauffeur, who was not identified, also escaped injury, police said.

Investigation
West Germany's federal office for criminal investigation announced later today it had taken over the investigation of the shooting.

Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said three shots were fired and that 10 bullet holes were found in Tietmeyer's Mercedes.

Stoltenberg also said the attack appeared to be connected with plans by leftist militants to mar international finance discussions beginning later this week in West Berlin in preparation for the Sept. 27-29 World Bank-International Monetary Fund annual joint meeting.

Tietmeyer, 57, has been involved in planning for the



Tietmeyer

World Bank-IMF meeting. He is also deputy governor for the IMF in West Germany.

Earlier today, about 30 masked youths stormed a podium during an international finance talk in Hamburg and beat up Guenther Grosche, West Germany's IMF executive director, according to police.

A Social Democratic parliamentarian, Ingomar Hau-chler, and a police officer were also hurt, Hamburg police said. The attackers were able to evade capture, according to police.

The IMF was the topic of the talks.

Gunfire
Stoltenberg, speaking to reporters in Bonn, said the attack on Tietmeyer occurred about 50 metres (yards) from Tietmeyer's house.

He said there was a "spray" of gunfire, but police said the car's interior was not penetrated.

Tietmeyer is an expert on international finance and has accompanied West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at world economic meetings.

Up to 40,000 protesters were expected in West Berlin during the international finance talks, demanding that more be done to help poor nations burdened with huge foreign debts.

West German security officials have warned in recent weeks that some leftist militants among the protesters could cause trouble during the talks.

Industrialised nations concerned about Argentine missile

US, allies seek to halt Condor II

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (Agencies) The United States is concerned about a missile (Condor II) that Argentina is developing with the help of Iraq and Egypt, a State Department spokesman said yesterday.

Charles Redman, the spokesman, said industrialised nations had agreed to seek to limit the spread of missiles with more than a 190-mile (300-km) range and a 1,100-pound (500 kg) payload.

"The reason we are concerned is that it (the Argentine missile) would appear to be a system that would exceed these thresholds," he said at the department's daily press briefing.

Assistance
Redman said the concern of Washington and other industrialised nations was that "this is the kind of technology that produces missiles that could be nuclear-capable and which

would exceed the range and payload parameters."

The Washington Post yesterday reported that the US and its allies were seeking to halt Argentina's development of the missile, known as the Condor II.

It said the missile has been under development since 1984 with technical assistance from Egypt and financing from Iraq. The newspaper quoted officials as saying the Condor II is believed to be a two-stage rocket with a range of 4,200 (6,730-km) to 6,200 miles (9,920-km) and a payload of (350-kg) 770 pounds.

"Because of the Iraqi and Egyptian involvement, it is considered likely that the weapon would be quickly exported to the Middle East when production begins," the Post said.

The Argentine missile and other high-technology weapons being developed or sold in the

Third World would be the subject of US-Soviet talks on ballistic missile proliferation to be held in Washington on Sept. 26, it said.

Argentine officials were not immediately available for comment on the State Department comment.

Meetings

The State Department confirmed yesterday that during meetings in Rome on Sept. 8-9, expressions of concern about missile proliferation were exchanged by the United States, Canada, Britain, Japan, West Germany and Italy. The countries also expressed concern about technology transfers that might enhance Argentina's capability.

Afterwards, a US official told the Associated Press the same group registered concern in its deliberations about programmes

in Brazil and North Korea.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Secretary of State George P. Shultz may pursue the problem with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze during their talks in Washington on Thursday and Friday.

A US official said, Assistant Secretary of State H. Allen Holmes will take up the issue at talks in Washington next week with Viktor P. Karpov, senior Soviet arms control negotiator.

North Korea's attempt to extend the range of its Soviet-made Scud B missiles should demonstrate to the Soviets that the proliferation problem extends to their region, the official said.

Brazil's attempt to develop the Sonda IV missile is the other programme the allies discussed, the official said.

Bush and
Dukakis
battling over
economy

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (Reuters) Michael Dukakis and George Bush, seemingly convinced that pocketbook issues may hold the key to the Nov. 8 presidential election, are swapping charges over the state of the US economy.

In an exchange likely to be duplicated in their September 25 debate, Dukakis said yesterday that Republican prosperity has bypassed middle class and poor Americans and Bush charged his rival with appealing to class envy.

Democratic presidential candidate Dukakis, who says his policies as Massachusetts governor helped revitalise his state's economy, said Bush ignored the average American.

"He sees prosperity for some people in America and says that's good enough," Dukakis said of Bush in yesterday's campaign appearance in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Bush, who says Dukakis would destroy American prosperity by raising taxes, accused his rival of seeking to divide Americans along class lines.

"Lately, as the campaign heats up, he's pursued a strategy of dividing Americans," Bush said of Dukakis.

Haiti cabinet

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Sept. 20. (UPI) A day after taking power, military ruler Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril named a civilian-dominated cabinet yesterday and declared that democracy was "the final objective of the military" in the troubled Caribbean nation.

Armenians strike to protest clash

MOSCOW, Sept. 20. (AP) Armenians continued a general strike that shut down businesses and schools in their republic's capital today following a rally protesting a bloody clash between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in a disputed southern region, officials said.

Police patrols were stepped up in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, and the executive committee of the republic's Parliament was scheduled to meet today or tomorrow to discuss the dispute, the reports said.

The latest wave of unrest in the Caucasus mountains region of Nagorno-Karabakh ex-

ploded over the weekend when 25 people were injured in a shootout between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, the official news agency Tass reported.

A 61-year-old carpenter injured in the clash died yesterday in a hospital, an editor of Azeriinform, the Tass affiliate in Azerbaijan, said by phone from the republic's capital, Baku.

The editor, who declined to give his name, said he did not know whether the man was an ethnic Armenian or Azerbaijani.

Armenian activist Rafael Popoyan, in a telephone interview from Yerevan, said Armenians did not use weapons

in the Sunday clash in the village of Khadzhal.

It was one of the worst flareups of violence in the seven-month-old campaign by Armenians for control of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenians make up 76 per cent of the region's 162,000 residents and have strong historical links to it, but Nagorno-Karabakh was made part of Azerbaijan in 1923.

In Baku today, Azerbaijani Communist Party chief Abdul Rahman Vezirov told a meeting of local officials that the clashes were part of "anti-social activities" that must be combated with stricter control over law-and-order, Tass reported.

Tension rises as car bomb...

(Continued from Page 1)

again tomorrow to follow up the discussions, it added.

The commander of the Lebanese armed forces was quoted in a Kuwaiti newspaper today as saying the Army would "intervene to fill any constitutional vacuum" in case the Lebanese Parliament failed to elect a new President.

"The Army will not permit the downfall of Lebanon or the loss of its identity," Gen. Michel Oun, the Commander-in-Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces, said in an interview with the daily.

"Constitutions do not create people but people create constitutions. Hence the Army is ready to create the constitution, the republic and laws," Oun, a Christian Maronite said.

The interview was published a day after the Lebanese Army expressed serious misgivings about the choice of a US and Syrian-backed President. Oun differentiated between

the aspiration of the military to become rulers and the takeover of the military to correct situations and save the country.

The US State Department warned yesterday that it is vital for Lebanon to hold "orderly presidential elections on time."

Saudi Arabia said yesterday it had rejected overtures by some Lebanese to play a role in Lebanon's presidential election.

"There is no Saudi shadow in the election inside or outside Lebanon," the Saudi cabinet said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

Strike in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Sept. 20. (AP) At least two buses were set afire and shops pelted with stones as a near-complete strike was observed today in the northern state of Punjab to protest the killing of a Hindu leader by suspected Sikh militants, witnesses said.

Sri Lanka will
free political
detainees

(Continued from Page 1)

council elections which will be held between Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 in the recently merged Northern and Eastern Provinces of the country, another provision of the accord. The election will fill eight offices in the two regions.

The government statement said legislation will be passed before the elections making both Sinhalese and the Tamil language official languages of the state.

A government statement also said that the election commissioner had requested that President Junius Jayewardene recognise all parties and groups who wish to participate.

Recognition

There is as yet no indication that the Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have applied for political recognition, and candidates in the elections.

100,000 US
children are
homeless on
any one
night: study

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (AP) At least 100,000 children in the United States are homeless on any given night and that does not include those who have run away from home or been kicked out by their parents, the National Academy of Sciences estimated yesterday.

While male alcoholics and former mental patients still make up a large portion of the homeless, the fastest growing group of people with no place to live are children under 18, said the academy's institute of medicine.

One recommendation in the report aimed directly at helping children: Federal support for enriched day care and head start programmes should be expanded and coupled with outreach efforts to make homeless parents aware of help available for their children.

A recommendation for the homeless in general: permit the use of food stamps at restaurants so prepared meals will be available to people who don't have kitchens. Food stamps are vouchers that can be used instead of money to buy food.

Changes

The committee formed by the institute to conduct the study, which was ordered by Congress, applauded changes that allow use of food stamps at shelters and soup kitchens. But it said operators of those facilities need to be educated in the principles of sound nutrition and the special nutritional needs of the homeless.

The committee also sought to dismiss fears of city government officials who might conclude that increasing their efforts to help the homeless would only draw more homeless people to their cities.

The great majority of homeless people are long-term residents of the city where they live, the committee said. What's more, it said, what causes homeless people to move to another city is the prospect for work, not the prospect for public assistance. If jobs aren't available, they tend not to stay long.

Streets

As for homeless children, the report said there are no national studies pinning down the numbers, but using "even the most conservative estimates," would mean that:

● On any given night, 735,000 people in the United States have no home in which to sleep and must resort to streets, shelters, institutions or other makeshift quarters. Citing research by the Alliance Housing Council, a homeless advocacy group, the committee concluded that 1.3 million to 2 million people will be homeless for one night or more in the course of a year.

● Most of the 735,000 homeless on any given night are alone, but at least a quarter of them are members of families and 55 per cent of the family members are children.

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Nobel prize

HELSINKI, Sept. 20. (Reuters) Members of the Finnish Parliament have suggested the Nobel peace prize should go this year to President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

In a letter to the Norwegian committee that awards the prize, 138 Members of Parliament from all parties said this year's Moscow summit showed the two leaders' determination to improve international relations.

Explosion

MOSCOW, Sept. 20. (AP) Two suspected terrorists in Afghanistan preparing a bomb were killed when the device exploded, and a 9-year-old girl also died, Tass reported today.

The official Soviet news agency, quoting its Afghan counterpart Bakhtar, said the incident happened in the Khushkhal Mena district of Kabul but did not say when.

Air strike

MILAN, Sept. 20. (AP) A strike called today for six hours shut down Italy's major airports, forcing cancellation of scores of flights and long delays of others on both domestic and international routes.

Rangoon quiet
after
500 slain

(Continued from Page 1)

barricades, an Asian diplomat in Rangoon said on condition of not being identified.

Soldiers cleared the few remaining barricades, and people hurried home after buying food at a few small shops. Most troops were inside government buildings.

One opposition leader said street protests have been called off to avoid further bloodshed. Speaking on condition of not being identified, he said government workers would protest by continuing their strikes past Sept. 26, the new government's deadline for returning to work on threat of dismissal.

Three key opposition leaders issued a statement today condemning the bloodshed and telling coup leaders that "such suppression by force of arms will not stop the people's just demand for democracy."

They demanded talks with Saw Maw, "to seek ways to correctly solve the current crisis."

The statement was issued by former Brig. Gen. Aung Gyi, former Defence Minister, Tin Oo and Aung San Sun Kyi, daughter of Burma's late independence leader.

Offers

In the statement, they also rebuffed offers from the country's ethnic insurgents to support the pro-democracy demonstrations, and told authorities to stop spreading rumours that the rebels had infiltrated the demonstrations.

Social Democrats 'too
young to die': Owen

TORQUAY, England, Sept. 20. (AP) David Owen, addressing the annual conference of his struggling Social Democratic Party, said yesterday the movement was "too young to die," but acknowledged its isolation.

"The fact that the SDP is alive and kicking reflects our passionate belief that we still have something unique to contribute to British politics," Owen told some 500 delegates in this south England resort.

Merged

The conference was the first since the Centrist alliance of the eight-year-old Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party collapsed last spring.

Owen, the most formidable figure in the British political centre, refused to join the newly merged Social and Liberal Democratic Party. His views are to the right of the Liberal Party.

The Social Democrats are now battling, with 4 per cent support in opinion polls, to survive as a fourth national party behind the governing Conservatives, the main opposition Labour Party and their former Liberal allies.

Owen, who was Foreign Secretary from 1976-79 in a Labour government, said only some kind of electoral agreement between the opposition parties will oust conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who won power in 1979.



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This file picture shows Hirohito (left) and Akihito at the Imperial Palace.

Hirohito in serious but stable condition

Japan plans for transfer of royal duties

TOKYO, Sept. 20, (Agencies): Emperor Hirohito, the world's oldest and longest reigning monarch, was reported in serious but stable condition today following massive blood transfusions as a worried government laid plans for the first succession in 62 years to Japan's 2,600-year-old Chrysanthemum Throne.

Hirohito, 87, who ascended to the throne in 1926 as a god but relinquished his divinity after World War II, was undergoing transfusions which so far had replaced one-sixth of his blood, the Imperial Household Agency said.

A team of three palace doctors worked around the clock to continue stabilising the emperor's ailment, which was believed to involve a swollen pancreas blocking the flow of bile from his gallbladder and causing jaundice.

Palace officials said only that

the emperor's condition was stable, but doctors who have attended Hirohito in the past said the amount of blood given to the emperor in the last day indicated a serious state.

Officially, the court officials said Hirohito had received 1,000cc of blood in transfusions after spitting up blood and running a fever last night.

"His condition remains unchanged. Generally speaking his condition is stable," a palace official said today.

An unidentified source who attended a cabinet meeting today told the Kyodo news agency that Hirohito appeared to be in critical condition and the transfusion had not stopped haemorrhaging in his digestive tract.

But officials at the Imperial Household Agency and the prime minister's office would not confirm the report. A spokesman at the prime minister's office said he had no knowledge that the

emperor was in critical condition.

The Japanese government is considering transferring official duties from Hirohito in his son, Crown Prince Akihito, a government official said today.

The official in the prime minister's office said a cabinet decision on the transfer was expected by tomorrow. The prince took over the emperor's state functions for three months later last year after Hirohito underwent major surgery.

While the emperor is forbidden from playing a political role under the post-war constitution, he puts his seal on new laws, meets senior foreign guests and opens parliament.

Akihito, 54, visited his father three times during the day at the palace in central Tokyo.

Well-wishers also gathered outside the palace throughout the day to pray for the emperor's

recovery.

One group prostrated themselves as they faced in the direction of his residence. Another chanted "Long live his majesty," using the traditional cry of "ban-zai" (ten thousand years).

In Seoul, Japanese Olympic team officials said they had met with diplomats at the Japanese embassy in Seoul to discuss what to do in the event of the emperor's death.

A 48-hour mourning period is expected by many observers immediately after he passes away.

The Tokyo bond market fell with brokers saying the emperor's declining health was a factor.

In a nervous stock market, paper and printing company shares rose on the expectation that a new reign would require the re-printing of calendars and other dated material.

Israeli satellite will spy on Arab world: experts

PARIS, Sept. 20, (Agencies): The satellite launched by Israel yesterday is a reconnaissance probe whose main mission will be to spy on the Arab world from Morocco to the Gulf, according to Western European space experts.

The experts, who declined to be identified, said the Ofek-1 (Horizon-1) satellite was designed to pass low over the Arab world during its 90-minute earth orbit.

Some of the most sophisticated spy satellites launched by the United States and the Soviet Union can provide immense detail from their space orbits, but the technical capabilities of the Israeli satellite were not known.

Israel became the first space power in the Middle East when the Shavit (comet) launcher streaked over the Mediterranean yesterday with the 156-kg (340-pound) satellite on board.

The European experts questioned Israeli space officials' cost estimates of \$200 million for the space programme, saying the cost would be closer to \$1 billion. Unlike heavier and more sophisticated satellites, the Ofek-1 is only scheduled to orbit the earth for about a month before its life ends and it burns up while falling back to earth. Satellites often last well beyond their scheduled lifespans however, they noted.

They said the most important development was the ability to launch a satellite into space rather than the satellite itself. Many of the world's fledgling

space powers have suffered most problems with launchers rather than the satellites. India has lost two rockets in the past two years. The success or failure of the satellite will probably never be known as its results will be a heavily guarded secret, the experts said.

At least three of the dozen or so satellites launched around the world this year have failed to function correctly.

The launch puts Israel into the elite club of space powers, which includes the United States, the Soviet Union, the 11-nation European Space Agency (ESA), China, India and Japan.

The ESA has already launched Arab satellites, but these are telecommunications equipment used to beam television and radio programmes. They do not contain the sophisticated cameras used in spy satellites.

US officials in Washington

said the Israeli satellite would probably have military communications applications but they doubted it was designed for military spying.

The Western space experts said Israel's request for access to detailed US satellite pictures of the Arab world had been denied.

Much of the technology used in its newly-launched probe, however, would have been American, they added.

An Arab League representative voiced concern about Israel's launching of the satellite and said it meant the Arabs would have to strengthen their defences.

Clovis Maksoud, who represents the Arab League in the United States, said the satellite gave Israel "a serious strategic leverage" since the country already had the capability to fire long-range missiles.

China allows inspection

VIENNA, Sept. 20, (AP): China has agreed to submit its non-military nuclear facilities to international inspection, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency has announced.

Hans Blix also told the agency's annual general conference that increased use of nuclear power can ease the so-called "greenhouse effect" of a global warming of the atmosphere.

The signing by China yesterday of the agency's "safeguards"

agreement means that all known nuclear weapons states now permit their non-military nuclear programme to be inspected by IAEA experts. Under the 1969 nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the five known nuclear powers pledge not to share nuclear weapons technology with the rest of the world. They are the United States, Soviet Union, France, China and Great Britain.

A South African government delegation came to Vienna last month for exploratory talks with US Soviet and British diplomats on the possibility of joining the treaty.

US bases must go ultimately: Ramos

MANILA, Sept. 20, (AP): Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos today said that US bases here must eventually be phased out, but urged caution on a Soviet offer to close a base in Vietnam in return for American withdrawal from the Philippines.

"I think what is the most pragmatic position is to anticipate the gradual phase-out of the (US) bases," Ramos told reporters.

"We are a self-respecting, sovereign nation. But one of these days, we should anticipate the facilities on the bases will have to go. But it must be a gradual, smooth and harmonious phase-out," he said.

Ramos made the comments in regard to an offer made last Friday by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to close the Soviets' naval base at Cam Ranh Bay if the United States left its six military bases in the Philippines.

Study

Gorbachev's offer "is something that should be studied very, very thoroughly, examining the proposition from all angles because indeed, no less than our national interest is at stake," Ramos said.

He said the US facilities, which include Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, "have a much greater security value than the base being offered by the other side."

President Corason Aquino said last week it was up to the United States to decide whether to accept Gorbachev's offer. She gave no indication whether Manila would advise Washington on the response.

Parliament approves 5 Iranian ministers

NICOSIA, Sept. 20, (AP): Iran's Parliament today approved five of six cabinet members introduced by Prime Minister Hussein Musavi for a vote of confidence, including a new minister for the widely criticised Revolutionary Guards.

Tehran Radio said the 270-seat Majlis, rejected one member, Minister of Commerce, Majid Hedayatzadeh, in the second vote of confidence in Musavi's government in eight days.

In-charge

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the overwhelming majority voted for Revolutionary Guards Minister Ali Shamkhani. Of the 218 deputies present at the session, 202 voted in his favour, 10 against and six abstained.

Little information was available about Shamkhani. Reference books did not list him.

But an Iranian political

analyst, speaking in Nicosia on condition of anonymity, said Shamkhani, in his early 40's, had headed the Revolutionary Guards' ground forces since the early days of the Islamic revolution.

He was entrusted, in particular, with chasing dissidents opposed to Ayatollah Khomeini's fundamentalist regime, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

Unclear

Shamkhani takes over from Mohsen Rafiqdoust, who got a no-confidence vote in the first Parliament session on Sept. 12. That session was held amid wide criticism of the Revolutionary Guards, blamed for a series of battlefield defeats that forced Tehran to accept a ceasefire in the Gulf war on July 18.

The radio said Hedayatzadeh could not gather the necessary votes, with only 94 deputies supporting his appointment as minister of commerce.

Khomeini tells Muslims to study science

MANAMA, Bahrain, Sept. 20, (UPI): Spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini slammed Iran's backwardness and called on Muslims to pay more attention to science and culture. But he attacked the "US brand of Islam and the Islam of the opulent."

In a message to War Dead Foundation head Hojatoleslam Mahdi Karrubi, Ayatollah Khomeini was quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency as calling on Muslims to "take a giant cultural leap forward" and "get rid of their backwardness in science."

Khomeini was quoted as saying in a written address to the Children of Fallen War Heroes: "I (would) like each and every one of you to become scientists and scholars."

Khomeini said he wanted the youngsters to be committed to the genuine Islam of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

He said he would like the youngsters "to rid Islam of hypocrisy, perversion and backwardness by your science and piety."

Lack of funds threatens UN peacekeeping efforts

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 20, (Agencies): The United Nations, faced with increased peacekeeping tasks, may become insolvent in the next few months and a lack of funds is a bar to operations, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday.

Perez de Cuellar welcomed President Reagan's announcement last week that the United States would move towards paying its arrears of UN dues but said partial payments would not solve the crisis.

An immediate cash shortage "threatens insolvency in the next few months and the virtual depletion of reserves," he said in his annual report to the General Assembly, which begins its 43rd session today.

"Lack of reserves means that the organisation will not be able to mount new operations," Perez de Cuellar said.

The impact of the crisis is heightened by the increasing responsibilities of peacekeeping and peacekeeping which the organisation has had to assume.

These, he said, were likely to involve significantly greater expenses in the next 12 months.

UN sources said a projected UN military and civilian operation in Namibia to bring the South African-ruled territory to independence next year was estimated to cost at least \$700 million.

The UN is already committed to a \$74 million military observer mission in Iran and Iraq under the ceasefire accord and this is only for the initial six months.

Perez de Cuellar proposed that the General Assembly call for voluntary contributions or interest-free loans and possible changes in the scale of assessments on members to get the world body out of the red.

The United States is assessed at 25 per cent of the UN regular budget and owed \$466 million when the White House announcement was made. Since then it has paid \$15.2 million — enough for about one week's UN operations.

In a report that was generally upbeat, although tempered by caution, Perez de Cuellar said the

possibilities of bringing peace in troubled regions through the efforts of the United Nations now were in view.

He cited the Afghanistan accord of April, the Gulf ceasefire last month, a recommendation that the Namibia independence process begin on Nov. 1, "greater receptivity" in Cyprus peace talks, prospects for peace in Kampuchea and progress in the Western Sahara dispute.

Referring to his talks with Iran and Iraq about an eventual settlement, the secretary-general said it was essential that they act on the conviction that genuine peace would provide each with opportunities for reconstruction and progress that a fragile situation could not provide.

"On my part, I will do my utmost to help achieve the just and lasting solution envisaged by the Security Council," he said.

Talks

Gulf talks are expected to resume here early next month. On the downside, Perez de Cuellar mentioned the Middle East, "a critically important region of the globe."

He called for a just and lasting settlement "taking fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination."

What was needed, he said, was an urgent effort led by the Security Council to promote an effective negotiating process towards a solution that would secure the interests of both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples and enable them to live in peace with each other.

Withhold

Two Republican members of Congress have introduced a resolution that would withhold part of the US dues payments to the United Nations.

Last week, President Reagan ordered release of the payments. The resolution, introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Congressman Pat Swindall of Georgia, would block the release of \$28.8 million of the \$144 million appropriated by Congress for the United Nations in the financial year that ends Sept. 30.

Afghan premier raps Pakistan

MOSCOW, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq and top Soviet officials on Monday again accused Pakistan of helping Muslim guerrillas as the rebels shelled the Afghan city of Jalalabad.

The official Tass news agency said two people were wounded in an attack on residential areas of Jalalabad, near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. It accused Pakistani and US advisers of helping rebels in southern Kandahar province.

The latest report of rebel attacks coincided with Sharq's arrival in Moscow for a two-day official visit. Tass said he met Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for talks on internal Afghan problems. "Continuing interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from Pakistani territory is preventing an early political settlement," Tass said in a summary of the talks.

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Kuwait's BRIDGESTONE tyre distributors tour major BRIDGESTONE factories.

A delegation from BRIDGESTONE tyre distributors, which included a member of the board and company staff, recently visited BRIDGESTONE factories in Indonesia and Thailand.

The trip highlighted the strong mutual co-operation between the BRIDGESTONE company and its distributors in Kuwait.

The eight-day trip was supervised by Mr Najji Yousef Al Kattan, head of the tourist division at Alghanim Travels.

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Amir of Kuwait will meet French President in Paris

PARIS, Sept. 20, (KUNA): HH the Amir of Kuwait will arrive here on Thursday to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand to discuss the Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

The meeting is the latest in the growing number of high-level contacts between the two countries.

The two leaders first met in September 1986, when Mitterrand stopped in Kuwait on his way home from a trip to South-east Asia.

Mitterrand's visit then was interpreted as a sign of France's support to Kuwait during the Gulf war.

In a statement at Kuwait Airport, Mitterrand said then that France supports the independence and national sovereignty of Kuwait.

Communications between the two leaders continued through messages relayed by ministers of the two countries.

Earlier this month, French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement was in Kuwait to deliver a message from Mitterrand to HH the Amir, inviting him to France.

Chevenement also met with

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed.

Tribute
According to the French minister, the talks centred on the decision by Iraq and Iran to halt war.

According to reports here, the talks also dealt with armament purchases, especially the advanced "Mirage 2000" jet fighter. France is one of the major arms suppliers of Kuwait, and has previously sold Mirage F-1 fighter jets and Gazelle helicopters to the Kuwait Air Force.

Chevenement was the first French minister to visit Kuwait since the Socialist government of Michel Rocard was formed last June.

The Kuwaiti-French talks to the Elysee Palace on Thursday will come a week after French Foreign Minister Ronald Dumas met with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Strasbourg on the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

Kuwaiti officials have always paid tribute to the "positive" stand of France on the Palestinian cause which calls for the right

of Palestinians for self-determination in their homeland.

France was one of the first Western nations to voice concern over Israeli repression against Arab citizens in the occupied lands. It has also demanded settling the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference.

A year ago, Sheikh Sabah came here for talks with Mitterrand and the then Conservative Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond.

Relations
His visit was preceded by a meeting in July between Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaimi and Raimond on Kuwait's plea for the protection of its oil exports.

In October last year, Raimond also met with Kuwaiti Social Affairs Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed who was then information minister.

The visit of Sheikh Nasser underlined the two countries' intention to break the traditional circle of political and economic co-operation and convert it into a wide sphere of exchange in cultural and educational fields.

During the opening ceremony

of the Arab World Institute last December, Mitterrand visited the Kuwaiti delegation, accompanied by former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Sheikh Nasser, to view traditional Kuwaiti dances and to taste Kuwaiti dates and sweets.

In his opening speech, Mitterrand stressed the importance of his country's relations with the Arab world, saying channels of communications were opened during the days of the Islamic civilisation in Spain.

Kuwait and France have also made major strides in developing their commercial ties which started in the 1920s when some Kuwaiti merchants found a prosperous pearl market in Paris at a time of world depression.

Investments
In December 1986, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi headed an official delegation to meetings of the Franco-Kuwaiti Joint Economic Commission.

That visit was reciprocated last January by French Finance and Economy Minister Edouard Balladur, who said his trip was "evidence of the respect we have

for the courageous and wise policies carried out by the high Kuwaiti leadership."

Balladur, who was representing Chirac, told the Kuwait News Agency that France enjoys close relations with Kuwait in many areas of mutual interest.

Last March, businessmen from both countries met in Kuwait to discuss future Kuwaiti investments in France under the auspices of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the "France-Arab Countries Association."

The chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdul Aziz Al Saqr told the conference that Kuwait has chosen to build permanent relations with France on the basis of security and cultural integration.

He said that it is necessary to combine Kuwaiti and French projects in the petrochemical industry.

There have also been many unpublicised efforts by diplomats from the two countries to bring the two countries closer together.

The itinerary of the Amir will be announced today.

Iraq considers changing course of Shatt Al Arab

BAGHDAD, Sept. 20, (Agencies): Iraq said yesterday it is thinking of altering the course of the disputed Shatt Al Arab, the waterway which is one of most contentious issues in its peace talks with Iran.

The official Iraqi News Agency, INA, said President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of field commanders who discussed changing the course of the Shatt Al Arab. The agency gave no other details.

Control
Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, asked about a report on the subject in a Kuwaiti newspaper, told reporters he had no comment.

Iraq says it has sovereignty over the whole of the Shatt Al Arab, its only major outlet to the Gulf, while Iran says the southern border between the two countries runs down the waterway's centre.

Demands
Aziz said the peace talks stalled on Iraq's demands for free navigation to the Gulf and the immediate clearance of war debris from the Shatt Al Arab by the United Nations regardless of its legal status.

Iraq's only other Gulf outlet, the Shatt Al Basra, branches off from the Shatt Al Arab and flows into the Gulf at the Kuwaiti border.

Iraq reactivated its two ports on the Shatt Al Basra, Umm Qasr and Khor Al Zuhair, immediately after the UN-brokered ceasefire between Baghdad and Tehran went into force on Aug. 20.

A retired irrigation official told Reuters that it might be possible to change the course of the Shatt Al Arab at the intake point of Shatt Al Basra, which could be widened and deepened to take bigger ships.

Control
Umm Qasr and Khor Al Zuhair can now only handle ships of limited draught, according to Iraqi Port Authority sources.

Political sources said they did not think Iraq would have made the statement about the course of the Shatt Al Arab unless it had already taken serious steps towards implementing the project.

Aziz also said yesterday that the Shatt Al Arab must remain under Iraqi control and cannot be used by Iran to pressure his country in peace negotiations to end their eight-year war, the agency reported.

Aziz said the waterway — the delta of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers — should remain under Iraqi control as "a historical, logical, legal and a

just matter," said INA monitored in Cyprus.

Aziz, speaking at a press conference, said Iraq rejects Iran's stance on the waterway as a means to pressure Iraq in the peace talks that started in Geneva on Aug. 25.

Bargaining
Iran wants the negotiations to stick to the UN ceasefire Resolution 598, starting with the withdrawal of all troops to "internationally-recognised borders."

Iraq wants the talks to focus immediately on the clearing of the Shatt Al Arab waterway and freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Iraq says those issues can be dealt with after the full implementation of the ceasefire resolution. The talks are scheduled to restart in New York in the first week of October.

Aziz said that Iraq is committed to peace and that "Iraq would bear the consequences for its insistence on its current position."

Aziz warned Iraq against using the Shatt Al Arab as a bargaining card to the peace negotiations, adding: "If the Iranians are using this card as a pressure against Iraq, Iraq has a thousand cards to use."

Indian cultural show planned



(L-R) Mehboob Abdullah, Ashok Kumar, N.N. Jha and Mrs Jha at the opening of NATIA.

INDIAN Ambassador to Kuwait N.N. Jha yesterday opened the newly formed National Arts Theatres of Indians Abroad (NATIA), a cultural forum, at a ceremony at the Indian embassy.

Jha also released a souvenir published to mark NATIA's first cultural show, a two-day Indian

dance festival, to be held on Sept. 29-30 at the Indian Arts Circle. Jha presented a copy of the souvenir to Mehboob Abdullah, a director from the Arabiao Theatre of Kuwait.

NATIA officials K.P. Asok Kumar, Bahu Panampally and Shoba Thomas attended the ceremony.

Authority blames contractors for Dhafer problems

THE director general of the Public Housing Authority, Dr Ibrahim Al Shaheen, said that the authority is still withholding the bank performance guarantee of the five contracting companies associated with the Dhafer Housing Project.

The project is the first executed by local companies and showed many design and construction problems, such as falling bricks and explosions in water boilers in several houses.

The authority claims that these problems are the fault of contractors, while the latter claim these were caused by poor designs and low quality of materials.

The authority stressed that the costs of all repairs will be deducted from the performance guarantees.

Population explosion topic of Cairo meeting

ARAB media leaders are scheduled to meet in Cairo, Egypt, today and tomorrow to discuss record-breaking population figures and the development process in the Arab world.

The meeting, which will be inaugurated by Egyptian Premier Atif Sidki, was organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Arab media leaders will examine the role of the mass media in informing people about the population explosion and its negative effect in development in the Arab world.

An official source at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kuwait said the forthcoming meeting

will examine "how to boost the development role of information and to focus public opinion on development issues."

A working paper on population growth, the Arab city and international migration will be discussed, the source said.

Population and information experts and specialists, in addition to the chief of the Social Development and Population Department at ESCWA Riad Tahharab, will participate in the two-day session which will be held at the Cairo Sheraton Hotel.

French firm will build power centre

A FRENCH group of companies known as CJAF announced yesterday in Paris that it has won a contract worth KD 17 million with Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water.

The company said that the contract is for building an electrical power control centre like the one in Jahriya.

The centre, which will be built in Jahra, will take an estimated three and a half years to construct and will control over 122 power stations.

Information service will be offered

SOURCES at the Ministry of Communications said that a new informational service "Your Guide-Dakelak" will be available to all citizens and expatriates.

The annual subscription will be KD180 for a coloured set and KD100 for black and white. There is a KD20 installation charge and each minute of service costs KD0.101, sources added.

Saudi citizen wins prize

RIYADH, Sept. 20, (OPECNA): A Saudi Arabian citizen has won a prize from the Canadian Association of Chemical Engineers for scientific research published in Canada last year.

Dr Tariq Fares Al Farsi, assistant professor at the Engineering College of the Riyadh-based King Saud University, researched several scientific applications in petroleum, petrochemicals and underground water.

Al Farsi, who received his doctorate from Canada in 1984, will receive the prize at a ceremony on Oct. 3 in Canada.

In 1987, the researcher received a grant of over \$800,000 from King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology to research on using Saudi phosphate in industry under the city's 9th research programme.

The service will show all indexes and guides that allow subscribers to get information easily on the screen identical to the pages of a magazine.

The service will consist of thousands of pages offering different information such as: weather forecasts; sporting event results; financial news and information on the stock exchange in Kuwait and international markets; currencies; medical services (including a list of private and public hospitals and clinics); arrivals and departures of planes; information on hotels, travel agencies, flats, villas and advertisements of supermarkets, shops and more, the sources added.

Bangladesh aid committee to meet Friday

THE Bangladesh Flood Relief Co-ordination Committee will meet at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh Embassy, at House No. 181, Block No. 11, Jabriya.

Bahrain, Qatar may resolve issue

ABU DHABI, Sept. 20, (KUNA): Senior Bahraini and Qatari officials are drawing up final recommendations to end the conflict between their countries over Fash Al Dibbel Island and other areas of dispute, a local daily reported today.

The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper Al Itihad, quoting a well-informed source in Doha, also said that the officials may agree to transfer the conflict to the International Court of Justice.

Saudi King Fahd last year proposed referring the issue to the international court. Saudi Arabia has been mediating between the two countries to resolve the Fash Al Dibbel issue.

The source noted that the recent telephone conversations between the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, affirmed the good relations between the two countries.

The dispute between the two GCC member states started in April 1986.



The Royal Jordanian Airlines captain cuts a cake while his crew and members of the Meridien Kuwait Hotel management look on. The hotel was chosen to accommodate the airline's crew. They were welcomed by the hotel's General Manager Andreas Matmuller.

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EVENTS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1988

VIDEO CORNER

One man's descent into hell

By Gail Seery

"BRIGHT Lights Big City" is the story of one man's descent into hell. The film is perhaps disturbing in places; it is never pleasant to watch someone destroying themselves. The viewer has a direct choice: either to succumb to the very slick and professional presentation or else to question the validity of the story.

Anyone who grew up reading Miller and Kerouac, or even F. Scott Fitzgerald, would recognise the formula as cliché and corny. About two minutes into the film I realised that I had read the original novel by Jay McInerney — a novel which I had dismissed as pretty pointless and more concerned with form than with substance.

It isn't that the story loses any validity because so much of Davy Conway's suffering is self-induced, but more that the presentation of a perhaps valid trauma is done so appallingly, and trivialised so completely.

The film opens with a shot of Conway at a disco. There is absolutely no effect made to build his character through plot development, or anything complicated like that. Instead

we get Conway talking to himself. "You are not the kind of guy who would be in a place like this at this time of the morning... You're the kind of guy who wakes up early to the smell of bread in the local bakery, goes out to collect the paper and comes home to your wife Amanda. She left you a couple of months ago, and here you are. How did you get here? All might become clear if you could just slip into a bathroom and do a little more Bolivian marching powder, but then again, this epidemic lack of clarity is the result of too much of that already."

Plot

There can be no lazier method of plot development than this, but at least the viewer now knows everything of importance. We are presented with a fail accompli. Amanda, Conway's not particularly stunning, model wife has left him, and he has absorbed himself in parties, nightclubs and cocaine ever since. The implication is that before her departure he was a nice, clean living type, but this is patently not true; Conway is so well known at the clubs and parties he goes to that this can be no new mode of behaviour.

Instead of creating convincing personalities, McInerney has concentrated on shocking through presenting the use of drugs, constantly and inexorably; in fact the only element of surprise contained in the whole film is at the sheer quantities of chemicals the main character can pour into his system without falling over.

It is not a very nice world. It is a world where bathrooms are not used as initially intended, and where values are clearly distorted and suspect. Conway has rather dubious pretensions as a writer, probably not unlike those of McInerney himself. Here the film slumps even further into cliché. Not only does he have those pretensions, but guess what, he has a writer's block as well — without ever having written anything but two short stories which have not been published. This is a little too facile to be believable, even in a film of this kind.

Anyway, back to a brief examination of the tenuous plot. Conway is drugging himself to death, at first glance because his wife has left him, at second glance because his mother died of cancer, and at third glance because he's most certainly weak and immature.

He is ruining his career in the facts department of a renowned magazine with sloppy work and late arrival, and leaves his checking of facts for yet another drug-laden session with his friend Ted Allagash. Allagash is a very light weight character, merely there to provide some sort of force for evil in Conway's world. The same has to be said for the wife Amanda. We have to listen to Conway's diatribe against her and accept. Conway's view of this world is totally self-serving and totally self-satisfied — for all the drugs, for all the disasters, there is always someone else to blame, be it Allagash, Amanda, or his dying mother.

Filmsy

At initial glance the film appears to be an attempt to deglamorise the drug culture. In reality the film is nothing of the sort. It attaches a certain romanticism to suffering, even of this very self-induced type. This is not a film that would make anybody turn away from drugs. OK, the main character grimaces and appears to feel ill from time to time, but there is definitely a message that drugs are a way of self-destruction and self-destruction is very much

glorified here.

The end is flimsy in the extreme, and is neither believable nor an answer. There is no way that Conway's decision to leave all the blackness behind him is realistic in terms of what has gone before in the story. It's more a sort of afterthought, as if the writer said to himself, "Oh dear, I have five minutes of film time left, the credits are about to roll, how am I going to get Conway out of this mess?"

However the production of "Bright Lights, Big City" is slick and accomplished, and the main actors Michael J. Fox, who plays Conway, Kiefer Sutherland, who plays Allagash, and Phoebe Cates, who plays a woman in Conway's office who sympathises with him, all do a very good job of attaching some superficial strength to an otherwise totally bleak film.

Lawrence Durrell commented that an air of suffering was fashionable in an artist — this film is a totally self-indulgent exploration of this view; "I suffer therefore I create" and vice-versa, and as always the suffering is taken as evidence of a talent that otherwise would not be noticed.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 3.30 Holy Quran
- 3.35 Heidi: cartoon serial
- 4.10 World News via Satellite
- 4.40 Baqaya Huttam: Arabic serial, starring: Julie Awad, Rabih Shihab, Dawood Jalalaj.
- 5.40 Cartoons
- 6.10 Songs and Music
- 7.05 Cultural Show
- 8.00 Weekly Seminar: this week, participants discuss the role of Kuwaiti women in nursing. Guests are Maryam Al Raqam, Dr Shadiya Al Hakam.
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Al Shara'a Maktour: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Yusuf, Nawal Al Futouh, Mustafa Fahmi, Osama Abbas
- 10.50 Al Zaqra: Arabic

- play, featuring Mohammad Ihadi, Fadiya Khitab, Hassan Ibrahim, Samira Fawzi.
- 12.05 News Summary
- 12.10 World News via Satellite, followed by Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 1.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
- 1.08 Cartoons
- 1.25 A recording for the football match between Tunisia and China in the Seoul Games
- 3.00 Daily Seoul message
- 4.00 A recording of the football match between Iraq and Italy.
- 5.40 Cartoons
- 6.12 Cartoon serial — Factory
- 6.45 Children serial
- 7.00 Computer

- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 O'Hara: "You Bet Your Life." Was Carl a spy? What is the truth behind his murder? O'Hara is on the case...
- 9.30 Wildlife On One: "The Pregnant Male."
- 10.00 Sledge Hammer: "The Secret." The governor's daughter is missing. Can Sledge find her? Starring David Rasche in the title role.
- 10.30 LA Law: there is a murder in court as the attorneys get set to defend another client.
- 11.30 News summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

CINEMA

Cine Club

Diwanija
Sept 21: Cine Club, Bneid Al Qar. 6.30 pm: This week's film is entitled "All that Jazz", starring Roy Scheider, Jessica Lange, Ann Reinking, Leland Palmer and Cliff Gorman. The film won five 20th Century Fox awards in 1979. The diwanija is open to members, their guests and invitees. For further details Tel: 2527409.

EDUCATION

Books & software show

SEPT. 24-28: British Council, Mansouriyah. 9 am - 12.30 pm: 5 - 8 pm: Computers and Their Application, an exhibition of books and software. Selected titles on show. Organised by British Council in association with Kuwait Bookshops Company. All are welcome.

THEATRE

KLT

SEPT 21: KLT, Ahmadi. 7.30 pm. Auditions for annual pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. Those interested can attend auditions at the theatre. The group needs volunteers to help backstage.

Alice in Wonderland

SEPT 23: Kuwait English School, Salwa. 10 am: Kuwait Players will audition children — ages eight to 12 — for eight roles in the musical fantasy, Alice in Wonderland. It will be performed in January next year.

SEPT 25/26: KES, Salwa. 7.30 pm: Audition for adults (14 roles) for Alice in Wonderland.

Those attending auditions — adults and children — are requested to call 564-0102 in advance.

Konkani Drama

OCT. 7: IAC, Funaitees. 4 pm: Konkani drama entitled "Xim Vo Ximite?", featuring the Mendes Brothers. Entry passes available at Raja Stores.

MUSIC

Indian Ballet

SEPT 22: 7.00 pm, at IAC. Funaitees: Narthana, a dance troupe led by Mohiniyattam exponent Mrs Prameela Surendran, will stage a ballet, Pan-chavadi, and Nrithasipalas at its annual show, Nrithotsav. Admission will be strictly limited; for free passes, call 4337608.

Ahmadi Music Society

SEPT 24: 7.30 pm, KLT, Ahmadi. Rehearsals commence for the Society's annual concert. Scheduled to be held on Dec 11, 12 and 13. Newcomers are welcome. For details Tel: 391-2384; 398-3964; 390-1782.

Country Western Musical

SEPT 27: Gala Night of KLT and ACT's annual Country Western Musical 7.30 pm at KLT, Ahmadi.
SEPT 28 and 29, night shows, 8 pm.
SEPT 30: matinee at 5 pm. For bookings call 5727558; 5712033; 5620332.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Players Poolside BBQ

SEPT 21: Messilah Beach Hotel, 8 pm: Kuwait Players poolside BBQ. All prospective members and newcomers to Kuwait are welcome. Tickets — KD2 per person. For reservations Tel: 394-1572.

Varca Sporting Centre
SEPT 22: SAS Hotel's Tent, 8 pm: Varca Sporting Centre's

third annual social evening. Music by Top Ranks and Sleeping Stones. Highlights: Beauty Queen contest, ideal couple contest, fancy dress, games and Bingo. For reservations and details, contact Maq-hool — 471-2900, Albert 241-0461, or James 5331940. Contact

SEPT 24, SAS Hotel, 10.30 am: Contact Ladies Information Group meeting. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 487-4513 or 5388105.

Sounds Great Party

SEPT 29: Messilah Beach Hotel, 8 pm: Sounds Great group's "Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait" dance party. Music by Top Ranks and Juke Box band. Twist competition, and novelty prizes. For reservations and further details ring Ken Winston or Adoff 5740256/7 or 5758870. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome.

SPORTS

Inter-Commercial Bowling League

SEPT 22, 300 Club, 6.30 pm: Men's Division: Far East Rest. vs Kay & Asso. Inci. Ports Public Authority vs Al Qabandi; Magnolia Ice Cream vs 300 Club.

SEPT 23: 300 Club, 1 pm: Men's Division — Phil Supreme vs Al Qabandi; Al Naqeb & Khattar vs Satellite. Hatid Ligaya vs PPA.

Women's Division: 9 am: Magnolia vs Far East Rest.; Boodai Aviation vs Gad's Kay & Asso.

Softball League

CALLING players — men and women — to join Kuwait International Softball League. Contact Steve Diemler — Tel: 531-5246 or Vic Mason Tel: 5728931. Ladies wishing to join the Ladies League call Rita Diemler — Tel: 5315246.

By Brian Hollis

WHEN directors make inside stories about the goings-on in Hollywood, the average film buff is bound to miss a lot of allusions and "in" jokes. Even worse, it is almost impossible to distinguish fact from fiction. Director Blake Edwards, best known for the (banned) Pink Panther series, has now come up with a new release, Sunset, which recreates a 1920's Hollywood scenario — but where fact and fiction intermarry is anyone's guess.

Tom Mix, the famous cowboy of the silent screen is played by Bruce Willis. When studio boss Alpern asks him to play famous marshall Wyatt Earp in a new blockbuster, Mix demurs, but hearing that Wyatt Earp (James Garner) will be present as technical adviser, he decides to give it a go. When Earp arrives the story begins to get complicated, as he apparently once had an affair with Alpern's wife. A madame from the Candy Store (a well-known cat-house) is murdered and all of Hollywood becomes involved, from the corrupt police chief and studio security bosses to the main actors of the time. To cap it all, the action culminates on the night of the presentation of the first Academy Awards in 1929.

Beautiful old Rolls Royces and Cadillacs, vintage aeroplanes and superb 1920's costumes give the film an authentic period flavour, and the main stars are backed up by a well known cast including Malcolm McDowell, Mariel Hemingway and Kathleen Quinlan. What's more, it's all true — or as Earp replies when asked to verify if a scene in the film happened in such and such a way — "Exactly — give or take a lie or two." You may be interested to know that in fact Wyatt Earp died the year before the first Academy Awards.

Werner Herzog is probably Germany's most famous director. Several of his films are now acclaimed as masterpieces. South America has long fascin-

'Give or take a lie or two'



Bruce Willis and Mariel Hemingway in Sunset.

ated him for its blend of primitive and civilized as is witnessed by two of his best films "Aguirre and Fitzcarraldo, and his favourite actor has remained Klaus Kinski. In Cobra Verde, Kinski is back again in a true story about a Brazilian plantation supervisor in the mid-1800s who annoys his boss by impregnating his daughters. The plantation owner decides to send Kinski off to Dahomey in Africa to re-establish the slave trade which has been stopped by the British. In reality he does not expect Kinski to succeed, as the King of Dahomey is mad and is known to have killed the last white garrison several years previously. Cobra Verde is the story of how Kinski re-estab-

lishes himself as the King's closest advisor. Reviews have varied from rave to dismissal, but it is not easy to forget the photography and images created by Herzog. As in Fitzcarraldo, one is reminded of the fact that the world is a weird and wonderful place.

There's plenty of violence this week for those who like to see bodies spattered over the screen. In the opening scene of Maniac Cop, a girl running from two ruggers at night finally finds a policeman — who

brutally murders her. This is only the start of a long series of very unpleasant and sadistic crimes, which make The Hitcher look like a Sunday school story.

In Perfect Victims, we have a killer who is obsessed with killing only young women with perfect figures, beautiful faces and nice legs. This, of course, makes for some very pleasant viewing for the voyeur amongst us, but unfortunately does not guarantee great acting.

For those who like to distinguish easily between the goodies and the baddies, Border Heat includes a typical leather redneck sheriff and a cigar chewing extortionist union boss. The hero is sentenced by the sheriff to picking chilies with Mexican immigrants until he pays a fine, but finds he will never be able to finish paying because the union and various other scavengers demand more than he is earning. No problems for our hero who sets the world to right and steals the bossman's girlfriend for good measure.

Codename: Zebra is another violent film which pits Vietnam vets against the mafia. A group of returning soldiers get together and wipe out a West Coast mafia family and take over their rackets. In the process a mafia envoy is jailed for seven years. Leaving prison he starts to eliminate the Zebra force which caused his problems. Enter Jim Mitchum (son of Robert) on the side of Zebra force and the body count starts to equal out.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI Films/Farwanjia; Video Naut, Tel: 243-2809; and Video Club, Tel: 572-4372.

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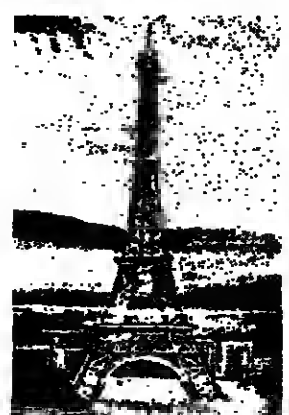
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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

PRAISING what is lost makes the remembrance dear
— William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).

OPINION

Let Lebanese choose their own President

THE question now is, what would really prevent the Lebanese Parliament from meeting and electing the next President of Lebanon away from the US or other pressures?

According to the constitutional system of Lebanon, Parliament can elect anyone President whenever they meet. There should be many nominees, but the final choice should be purely an independent Lebanese one.

Since the beginning of the civil war in 1975, Lebanon itself has been inviting outside interference into its internal affairs. Sometimes, the French are invited to mediate with the Americans, and Kuwait is asked to intervene with Syria, or Iraq co-ordinates with Egypt and so on.

Unfortunately, it is Lebanon who is keeping the door open for interference by external forces in its internal affairs, including the election of the President.

Such an attitude is also reflected by the so-called independent presidency contenders who support some countries against others through their statements and speak as though they are waiting for outsiders to help them win the post.

Lebanon should realise that practising this policy for the past 15 years or even since its independence is a totally wrong policy. They only found destruction and bad reputation through such a policy.

At this stage Lebanon is capable of learning from the bitter lessons of the past. Its people are well prepared to understand each other and circumvent meddling by outside influences.

The Lebanese people hate war and hate external interference and truly wish to live in peace and harmony.

There is no harm in having 20 sects in the country, provided that no one of them trades against the others.

Let the Lebanese Parliament meet, close its doors and freely elect the next President and announce their independent decision to the whole world.

The vital factor is that fear should be overcome by members of Parliament. They should realise that they do not belong to their individual sect only, but to the whole Lebanese people. This is the most solid foundation for the true independence of Lebanon.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Burmese coup a Ne Win charade

By Joseph de Rienzo

BANGKOK, (Reuters): Burmese citizens and Western diplomats in Rangoon say Sunday's military takeover in Burma is a phoney coup which has almost certainly been orchestrated by former leader Ne Win.

They said it appeared a desperate bid to crush a revolution for democracy after a generation of repression and economic misrule and could even lead to civil war.

The organisation for building law and order in the state, made up of 19 top military officers, abolished the state administration and judiciary, banned gatherings of five or more people and slapped a curfew on the nation from dusk until dawn.

"In order to halt the deteriorating conditions on all sides all over the country and for the sake of the interests of the people, the defence forces have assumed all power in the state," said an order signed by Army chief Saw Maung, once a Ne Win aide.

Backbone

Ne Win groomed the Army as the backbone of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) he created one year after seizing power in a 1962 coup that ended multi-party rule. Army killings of thousands of civilians in early August ignited full-fledged revolt against the BSPP.

"It's not a coup — how can you stage a coup if you're running the damn place already?" said one Rangoon-based Western ambassador contacted by telephone.

Although Ne Win resigned as chief of the BSPP in late July he is widely believed to still hold ultimate authority in the BSPP and the Army.

"It is generally assumed by all sophisticated Burmese that Ne Win is still in the driver's seat," the ambassador said. Asked if Sunday's takeover was instigated by Ne Win, the envoy said: "Everything else is."

Direction

Another Western ambassador said Ne Win's direction of the takeover was obvious and added most of the officers named to the military ruling group were probably not party to the decision.

Continued massive protests and strikes were inevitable unless the increasingly hollow apparatus loyal to Ne Win is com-

mitted to the slaughter of civilians, several Burmese said.

"Unless they are ready to resort to a massive use of force (the Army) cannot crush the revolt. If they are, then the opposition will go underground and rise up again," a Western military attaché said.

"These are Buddhists. They are not afraid of death," he added. He said if the Army splits over support for Ne Win or the popular uprising it could lead to civil war.

Fired by anger over a generation of repression, plummeting standards of living and atrocities by police in March and June, Buddhist monks and students led the popular revolt.

They forced the BSPP into a protracted shedding of powers, privilege and leaders in the face of growing clamour for freedoms.

Killed

In July the party announced relaxation of state economic controls and the retirement of Ne Win as BSPP chief. He warned as he stepped down the Army would use force to quell disorder.

His successor and security chief Sein Lwin dangled the prospect of freer border trade and internal commerce, then cracked down by ordering troops to fire on demonstrators. Three thousand were killed in Rangoon alone from 8 to 12, according to doctors' estimates.

Within 18 days Sein Lwin was replaced by Maung Maung, reviled by Burmese as a stooge of Ne Win, while monks, students and people from all walks of life proceeded to oust BSPP officials from major towns and virtually all public offices in the capital.

Almost daily demonstrations followed to demand the resignation of the BSPP government, formation of an independent interim administration and fair and free elections. A national strike to press the demand has paralysed the economy.

Last week the BSPP conceded that multi-party elections would be held within three months, but under BSPP auspices which were rejected by the opposition.

It also severed the armed forces and the civil service from the party.

A senior Western diplomat in Rangoon said he was surprised by the military takeover coming so late in the day.

"They are in power anyway," he said. "Why go through this charade?"

Clatter of freight trains replaces crackle of gunfire

By John Pomfret

MANZHOU, China, (AP): The clatter of freight trains has replaced the crackle of gunfire and the scream of combat jets in this town on the Soviet border.

Criss-crossing the rolling grasslands of Chinese Inner Mongolia and Soviet Siberia, the trains provide noisy testimony to improving relations between China and the Soviet Union.

Officials in Beijing and Moscow still baffle over a range of political matters. But businessmen in Manzhouli and dozens of other towns along the 5,000-mile (8,000-kms) border are eagerly cementing closer economic ties.

"The Russians are very easy to deal with," said Zhang Chengbin, a businessman from a state-run firm that sold \$31.4 million in meat to the Soviet in the first six months of this year. "They're like the Americans. They don't worry too much about prices."

Cram

In Manzhouli, connected to Russia by rail since 1901, Soviet trucks, chemical fertilizer, wood, steel, iron ore, electrical generators and bulldozers cram freight cars, moving south into the Chinese heartland.

Soviet railway workers and trade delegations walk freely around the town of 30,000. Its traditional Russian-style houses, their log-cabin walls painted

yellow and blue, attest to the centuries of cultural spillover from across the border.

"It's fascinating to be here," said Andrei Vedernikov, a Russian railway worker, as he strolled down Sino-Soviet road, the town's main street. "Manzhouli is like a small museum of Russia 50 years ago."

Across the border in Zabaikalsk, freight cars packed with Chinese meats, fruit, vegetables, grain, television sets, radios and thermos bottles fill the station.

"You think there are many trains here?" said Vadim Evdokimov, another railway worker, as he looked out over Manzhouli's cluttered freight yard. "Zabaikalsk is even busier."

Trade

Chinese press reports say that in the first six months of this year, trade between the Soviet Union and China reached \$1.3 billion, a 32-per cent jump compared to the same period last year. But Chinese businessmen said the real amount could be much higher and rival China's trade with the United States, which hit \$10 billion last year.

Indeed, on Aug. 29, the official Xinhua news agency reported

that combined trade in the border provinces of Heilongjiang and Jilin alone had hit \$707 million in the first half of 1988, or about 800 per cent above their total for all of 1987.

After two decades of tense relations rooted in territorial and ideological disputes, China and the Soviet Union started trading again in the early 1980s. It began with barter.

This year, it expanded to include purchases with currency from a third country, usually

dollars, and the export of Chinese labour to the Soviet Union. In a further twist, Chinese officials in Heilongjiang said privately they expect Soviet technical advisers to return soon to China after decades of absence.

Friends

"In the 1950s, we traded because we were friends," said Xing Wenzhao, an official in Heilongjiang's bureau of foreign trade. "Now, we do it because we need to. That is a healthy

development."

Chinese officials say labour export could become the most important part of Sino-Soviet trade. Several said that China could easily supply the manpower to develop Siberia.

In its report Aug. 29, Xinhua said about 10,000 Chinese workers were expected to head to the Soviet Union over the next year for construction and farming.

Labour export began in July when more than 100 Chinese

construction workers went to Zabaikalsk to build a gymnasium, several dormitories and a dining hall. Earlier in the year, 77 Chinese peasants were given 1,071 acres (433 hectares) to grow cucumbers and watermelons in the Soviet Union north of Vladivostok, across the border from Suifenhe, another important trading post.

"We gave the Russians half and then sold them the rest," said a Chinese official in Harbin who worked on the contract. "We're looking at it as a model for future deals. It makes perfect sense because we have a huge work force and they have a lot of land."

Food

For their part, Soviet officials in Manzhouli said they were interested in China for its consumer goods and food.

"Our agriculture and our light industry are weak," said a Soviet businessman, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "China for us is like a big supermarket. Their stuff is generally good and inexpensive."

In the early 1950s, the Soviet Union sent thousands of Soviet technical advisers to China to help set up factories.

China and Soviets move closer

Becoming friends again

MANZHOU, China, (AP): At the Crying Deer Restaurant on Sino-Soviet road, chef Sun Zhaomin cracks a toothless grin and runs to the back to grab two plates of his famous salad.

"Soviet friends, you've returned," he shouts. "Soviet friends, we welcome you."

Andrei Vedernikov, railway worker in this town on the Soviet border, have come back for another meal.

Down the street, at the international guest house, members

of the Soviet friendship delegation from Zabaikalsk dance the night away with their counterparts from the Manzhouli Sino-Soviet Friendship Committee.

At the close of the evening, under revolving green and red disco lights, Xue Guiyuan, a Chinese trade official, waxes melodramatic.

Friends

"Two great nations are becoming friends again," he says. "Two peoples are moving closer together."

FIRST, THE IRANIS WERE FANATICAL TERRORISTS



THEN REAGAN CALLED THEM MODERATES



NEXT, THEY SACRIFICED 290 AIR TRAVELERS AND WERE BARBAROUS



THEN WE FIND OUT WE SACRIFICED THEIR 290 AIR TRAVELERS...



"... BUT THE NAVY SAYS WE ACTED REASONABLY



I'M SUFFERING MYTH WHIPLASH



By Bernd Debusmann

NEW ORLEANS, (Reuters): Enoch Thomas was nine when he started running errands for crack dealers. His budding career ended at age 11, with a bullet fired point-blank through his head.

Known as "Shrimpy," he was a small kid with a sweet smile. The deal he did for was tiny by the multi-billion dollar standards of the drug business but big enough for his employers to kill him and dump his body, encased in a see-through plastic bag, two blocks from his home.

He lived on the fringes of a housing estate called Desire, where some 20,000 people live in conditions rivaling those of the Third World slums.

Delivery

Judging from accounts by New Orleans police and residents of Desire, an area which inspired Tennessee Williams to entitle his second play "A Streetcar Named Desire," Enoch fell foul on his first job beyond being a "whistler," a lookout who warns drug dealers of police.

His employers gave him a bag of crack, a potent form of cocaine, worth several thousand dollars for delivery to an associate. One way or the other

A deadly mix of poverty and drugs

— accounts differ — he lost the commission. Retribution was swift and brutal.

But Enoch's death earlier this year has done nothing to lessen the attraction of the drug business for youngsters in Desire or elsewhere in the underbelly of the United States, the black ghettos which have been bypassed by the economic expansion the Reagan administration says is its major achievement.

"That's the worst, the most horrible thing in places like Desire. The kids get into drugs earlier and earlier. If we don't manage to save our children now, there will be a whole lost generation," said Anthony Wayne Richard, head of the Desire Area Community Council.

"We are dealing with a vicious circle: Education is low, so kids leaving school get the lowest-paid jobs, or no jobs at all. On the job, they often face harassment. So, many give up in frustration," Richard told Reuters in a recent interview.

"But day after day, they see on television the American dream, families with nice houses, good clothes, two cars, swimming pools. And the kids know they will never make it in mainstream society. They also know they can make \$200 a day dealing drugs."

Community workers and residents in ghettos across the country say many underprivileged youth do not look for role models in mainstream society but in the world of successful criminals.

Children, often not yet in their teens, start careers as "whistlers" or "steers" who guide prospective customers to sales points.

Amid the crumbling houses of Houston's Fifth Ward district, community worker Ernest Lee recently pointed to a young black driving a red BMW convertible.

"To the kids, that guy is a hero," he said.

"He is pushing crack, he hasn't been caught, he has money, he has power. That's the dream of many ghetto kids."

The violence that goes with drug trafficking — even such acts as the murder of an 11-year-old — does not seem to be a deterrent. Police say many new recruits to the drug business have themselves lost family members in street shootings.

Crime in the slums of big US cities approaches civil war levels of violence — the US Centre for Disease Control ranks murder as the leading cause of death for black males aged 15 to 34 — and creates attitudes reminiscent of the psychological wounds in places like Beirut, where children grow up injured to violence.

Much of the killing, police say, stems from the explosive spread of cheap drugs and growing competition among street dealers. "There is intense rivalry," said Richard in New Orleans. "And these people think nothing of taking a life."

Nor is there a shortage of customers who take drugs to escape the grim reality of life in urban slums.

While cocaine and heroin are imported and distributed by sophisticated multi-national organisations with clearly defined command structures, crack is sold by a legion of small-scale street pushers — mostly members of racial minorities — who work independently, drug enforcement officials say.

Lebanon's election

Old parliament building ready for crucial meeting

By Zina Hemday

BEIRUT, (Reuters): The ageing members of Lebanon's parliament head to their old assembly building tomorrow for the first time in 13 years of civil war, for a meeting crucial for the future and filled with emotion from the past.

They will be returning to the old commercial sector of Beirut, once the busy heart of the Lebanese capital and now ghost town of bombed, charred buildings, weeds and rubble.

Arrangements are being made to ferry the 76 Muslim and Christian deputies in shiny limousines to the parliament in west Beirut to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel, whose six-year term expires the following day.

The building, a few metres from the Green Line battle front dividing Beirut into a Muslim west and a Christian east, has special significance for many Lebanese.

Rebelled

It was in this imposing four-storey colonial structure, built in 1936, that the Lebanese government rebelled against France and amended the constitution to end its mandate over Lebanon in 1943.

"Lebanese independence was born in the old parliament which is still standing despite the war," said former Prime Minister Takiyeddine Al Solh, 79, a veteran of the independence campaign.

The building symbolises the deep roots of Lebanese democracy, which remains solid as a rock.

He added: "If the deputies return to the old parliament, it means that the country is reunified, demarcation lines are eliminated and the city's heart is beating again."

Members of parliament fled their historic headquarters when civil war erupted in 1975. The deputies, survivors of a 99-seat house elected in 1973, met at other locations on the three previous occasions they had to

choose a president. The building has not escaped the scars of war. It bears marks of vicious door-to-door battles fought between Christian militiamen and Syrian-backed Muslim fighters and of artillery shells fired during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The glass door at the main entrance, overlooking a square covered with overgrown greenery, is shattered. Shrapnel has chipped away at the orange marble columns and at the stairs leading to the main amphitheatre.

The building was renovated during a lull in fighting after Israel's invasion, but it still comes under fire during occasional shelling and sniping across the Green Line.

Construction workers, house painters and cleaners have now set to work to prepare for tomorrow's session.

Neglected rooms and halls have been repainted, most

broken windows replaced and floors swept clean.

An electricity generator has been brought in to provide power, cut for several years, and 50 telephone lines have been installed. Raef Ftouny, a police officer on parliament's special security force, said:

Hesaid soldiers and policemen would ring the building on election day, while the special security force would deploy inside to protect the deputies.

For most Lebanese leaders, particularly those who remember the independence campaign, the assembly building embodies the joint Christian-Muslim struggle for "freedom and sovereignty."

Solh recalled when Naim Mughabghab, a Lebanese journalist driven by patriotic pride, shot at a competitor who tried to replace the building's national flag with its cedar motif, with a French one.



Lebanon's old Parliament assembly building stands at the once busy heart of the capital and now a town of bombed, charred buildings, weeds and rubble. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aid to famine victims

By Kristin Helmore

BOSTON: The world's major distributor of food to famine victims is facing the largest demand for emergency food relief ever — and stockpiles are beginning to run low.

"We are starting to face really critical problems in supplying emergency food around the world," says Paul Mitchell of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in a telephone interview from Rome. He says the problem could grow to unprecedented population if demand for emergency food continues to outstrip supply.

So far, the impact of the drought that has reduced United States grain production by 24 per cent and grain reserves by 20 per cent is an unknown quantity in the impending global shortages, says Mitchell.

The main cause of shrinking supplies is the escalating need for emergency food relief brought on by the devastation of war in a number of countries: Mozambique, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh, among others. These wars have produced millions of refugees, most of whom are destitute and dependent on food relief for survival.

"The problem now is that the demand for emergency food aid

US stockpiles of food beginning to run low

is far greater than the amount available from donors," says Mitchell. While donors — including the US — have fulfilled their pledges of food to WFP, the need has exceeded the level covered by the pledged amounts.

"It's not particularly the problem of North America," says Mitchell. "It's a global problem."

Yet, shipments of emergency food to famine victims reach only a small portion of the world's hungry people.

Most of the hunger in the world is chronic, born of poverty, and unrelated to crisis situations. UNICEF estimates that some 14.6 million people, most of them children, die each year from hunger and nutrition-related causes.

Over the last three years, WFP's global shipments of emergency food aid have increased from 520,000 metric tons in 1986 to 839,000 metric tons in 1987. Demand for food this year is expected to reach 1.3 million metric tons.

Already, Mitchell says the total amount of international emergency food reserves pledged

to WFP by governments — 500,000 tons — has been allocated, leaving a shortfall of some 330,000 tons.

Donor countries have indicated that they can cover much of this shortfall through bilateral food-relief programmes. But WFP believes it will still be left with an unmet demand of about 160,000 metric tons for 1988 alone.

Request

"We have not yet had to turn down an emergency request," says Mitchell. "But we are reaching a point where we could start turning out of food. It's in the donors' hands."

The drought in the US farm belt has had no impact on US donations to emergency food relief operations, according to officials at the US Agency for International Development (AID).

By law, emergency programmes have highest priority among the various types of US overseas food aid that this country gives. The US has contributed a total of 599,000 metric tons of emergency food this year.

The Christian Science Monitor

Schwarzenegger muscles in on comedy

In his past movies, like Conan the Barbarian and Red Sonja, muscleman Arnold Schwarzenegger sometimes got laughs when he didn't want them. Now, in his new movie Red Heat, he shows he has got a sense of humour ... and for once he doesn't mind people laughing at him.

By Jane Fletcher

SOME people used to snigger about his acting. Others giggled rudely at his strong Austrian accent. The more foolish ones even made fun of his surname. But no one dared to laugh out loud ... until now.

And that is just how muscleman Arnold Schwarzenegger wants it. For the 6ft 2in (1.85m) star of dozens of all action movies, where his rippling body counts more than the plot, has been given a chance to show off his sense of humour. Now, in the new cop thriller Red Heat, he has the last laugh.

Arnold teams up with James Belushi — brother of the late John — and the verbal sparring between the two has already scored a major hit with fans. Arnold's gift for comic timing had already been hinted at in movies such as The Terminator, Commando and Predator where he cracked jokes as well as bones, but in Red Heat the champion bodybuilder gives his talent a thorough workout in many of the action scenes.

Image

"I always wanted to do a comedy," he says, a smile breaking through his handsome granite-like features. The comic relief in Red Heat comes from the uneasy relationship between Soviet cop, Ivan Danko, played by Arnold and Belushi's streetwise Chicago detective, Art Ridzik.

It was a culture clash that attracted Austrian-born Arnold, now sporting a razor-sharp haircut, to the role. The 41-year-old star says: "The script was written in such a way that the humour derives from the difference in our back-

grounds, the way we go about doing things."

Arnold's new screen image sits happily on his mammoth shoulders, yet the transformation from gung-bo hero to wise-cracking Mr Cool has been a gradual one. He admits: "I have to slowly pull the audience in that direction, not just shock them overnight with a completely different image from what they expect from me."

"Now, when they ask people what they like most about me, they don't just say the body any more. Now they tend to put down sense of humour and comic relief."

Red Heat is a ground-breaking movie for Arnold for other reasons too. Not only is it the first American feature film ever to use scenes shot in Moscow's famous Red Square, it also stars the man whose previous films have been banned by the Soviet censor for their excessive violence. Glasnost has come to Hollywood and put a smile on Arnold's face and he says he jumped at the chance to play a Russian good guy for once.

"Straightaway, I loved this idea. It fitted the new climate you could see if you read the papers. A new spirit of co-operation between Russia and the US was growing," he says.

"The Russians are fed-up always seeing themselves portrayed as the bad guys in certain American action adventure movies."

Such barbed comments have landed Arnold in red-hot trouble with screen rival Sylvester Stallone — whose latest Commie-bashing Rambo movie is failing to woo American audiences. Now the two are squaring up for a mighty battle.

Arnold, who admits he wants to topple the Rocky actor from



Arnold Schwarzenegger: in most of his films his rippling muscles count more than the plot

his perch, has already delivered a hefty blow. He was quoted in a magazine, saying: "Whatever Sly does, it always comes out wrong. He just hits me the wrong way. I make every effort to be friendly, but he gives off the wrong vibes."

Stallone reportedly hit back: "I'll take him on any time—I'm going to knock his big head off his shoulders."

It may be a bloody confrontation, but Arnold is well-equipped to fight his private battles. He boasts a trim, 16 stone (100.8kg) physique, together with a 37-inch (142.5 cm) chest and muscular arms which are capable of crushing the life out of any adversary.

And it was certainly his astonishing body, rather than his brains, that movie fans first appreciated in films like Pumping Iron, Red Sonja, Conan the Barbarian, Conan, and Predator.

Arnold, who admits he wants to topple the Rocky actor from

image, however, was deceptive. Beneath the brawn beats a sharp business brain which had earned Arnold a fortune long before he took up acting. He says: "I could sense there was some serious money in real estate so I saved up every penny and started buying small apartment buildings. Today, I own a variety of things — single family residences, apartment buildings, office buildings, raw land. And I have a whole city block in Denver."

Determination

Arnold's determination to make it to the top — both in bodybuilding, where he took 13 world titles, and in acting, where he's now one of the most sought after stars — springs from a simple childhood dream. "From the time I was ten years old, I wanted to be the very best at something," he says. "If you want something badly enough, you go through anything — no matter what it takes — and learn whatever you have to."

Now, though, he appears to have toned down his image, after more than two years of marriage to Maria Schriver, daughter of President J.F. Kennedy's sister, Eunice. The man who once said: "I have a love interest in every one of my films my gun" met beautiful raven-haired Maria through her brother, Bobby Schriver, and despite their political differences — Arnold is a Republican, Maria is a Democrat — the couple share a happy relationship.

And even though he's married into America's royal family, Arnold does not let his famous in-laws overshadow him.

He says: "I'm married to a Kennedy, but that doesn't mean anything. I still have to go out to work. Americans aren't snobs. I have a lot of money, but

I haven't had it for a long time the way they have. I don't waste money and I'm careful what I spend it on."

Arnold is also rather conservative in his attitudes. "I don't like to dictate to Maria," he says of his famous wife, who was an anchor woman on an American television network when they first married. "But I don't allow her to wear trousers. I only like dresses and skirts. Maria understands that it looks more feminine."

Proud

Yet in the same breath he admits he does "whatever my wife tells me. I wash the dishes, make the bed and use a feather duster." An he's immensely proud of Maria's successful TV career, even though their work commitments mean long separations.



Schwarzenegger: his transformation from gung-bo hero to a wise-cracking Mr Cool has been a gradual one



Bill Cosby: second highest entertainer

Top forty money makers

NEW YORK, (AP): Here is a list of the world's 40 highest paid entertainers and their total earnings for 1987 and 1988, as estimated by Forbes magazine:

1. Michael Jackson, rock star, \$97 million
2. Bill Cosby, television star, author, \$92 million
3. Steven Spielberg, movie maker, \$64 million
4. Sylvester Stallone, film star, \$63 million
5. Eddie Murphy, comedian and actor, \$62 million
6. Charles M. Schulz, Peanuts cartoonist, \$62 million
7. Bruce Springsteen, rock star, \$61 million
8. Mike Tyson, heavyweight boxing champion, \$55 million
9. Madonna, singer and actress, \$46 million
10. Arnold Schwarzenegger, action movie star, \$43 million
11. U2, rock group, \$42 million
12. Johnny Carson, talk show host, \$40 million
13. George Michael, singer, \$38 million
14. Oprah Winfrey, talk show host, \$37 million
15. Jim Davis, Garfield cartoonist, \$36 million
16. Bon Jovi, rock group, \$34 million
17. Whitney Houston, singer, \$30 million
18. Paul Hogan, actor, \$29 million
19. Pink Floyd, rock group, \$29 million
20. Julio Iglesias, singer, \$28 million
21. Sagar Ray Leaoard, boxer, \$27 million
22. Kenny Rogers, singer, \$26 million
23. Stephen King, author, \$25 million
24. Tina Turner, singer, \$25 million
25. Tom Selleck, actor, \$25 million
26. Van Halen, rock group, \$25 million
27. Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer, \$24 million
28. Sting, singer, \$24 million
29. Prince, rock star, \$24 million
30. Jane Fonda, actress, \$23 million
31. John Congar Mellen-camp, singer, \$23 million
32. Grateful Dead, rock group, \$23 million
33. Steve Martin, comedian and actor, \$22 million
34. Jack Nicholson, actor, \$21 million
35. Wayne Newton, singer, \$21 million
36. Michael J. Fox, actor, \$19 million
37. Billy Joel, singer, \$18 million
38. Michael Spinks, boxer, \$17 million
39. Bruce Willis, actor, \$17 million
40. Frank Sinatra, actor, singer, \$16 million



Tom Selleck: No. 25 in the millionaire stakes

Burton's life on film

By John Davison

THE controversy over Richard Burton's life is about to be renewed with the screening of a new documentary in which leading actors, directors and members of his family have spoken for the first time about his life, loves and problems.

Lauren Bacall describes Burton's obsession with money, his "wickedness" and his inability to understand friendship.

She also expresses disgust at the lifestyle Burton pursued with Elizabeth Taylor: "Anyone who lives like that is first of all a liar. It's all a joke. It's all right to have a joke once, but to have it continue for that long I found totally obscene," she says.

Joseph Mankiewicz, director of the epic Cleopatra, in which Burton and Taylor fell in love, says that when very drunk Burton had confided in him that he wanted to "use" Taylor: "She's going to make me millions," he said.

The two-and-a-half-hour film, In From the Cold? A Portrait of Richard Burton, to be screened later this month, also explores Burton's slide into alcoholism and his growing self-hatred.

"I hate my voice. I hate my looks. I hate my hair. I hate my body. I hate everything," says Burton at one point.

But, says Tony Palmer, the film's director, this is not the whole story and is not why he made the film. "It doesn't pall any punches, and we're not trying to hide these things. The point is to put them in perspective." His own idea is that, rather than submitting to his problems, Burton used them to create his greatest performances.

Most of Burton's family, split by the revelations in a book by his youngest brother, Graham Jenkins, earlier this year, also agreed to be interviewed for the first time.

Rhianon Trowell, Burton's niece who publicly disowned Jenkins after his book was published, said yesterday: "None of us wanted to be interviewed at the beginning. But then we thought that if the word came from our own mouths it would be better than them being relayed through newspapers and books."



Richard Burton as Mark Antony in Cleopatra

The most telling comments come from Kate, Burton's elder daughter, who talks of his loneliness and insecurity: "Why wasn't he secure enough? In the first place he was taken out of his environment, sort of Pygmalion-like, made into this young British actor. Suddenly he was

thrust into a situation which perhaps he wasn't ready to deal with," she says.

On Taylor, she says: "At the outset I don't think he had any idea what exactly was going to happen with Elizabeth. I don't think he thought it through at all, and maybe that was part of the whole experience."

By Russell Kishi

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): A Hollywood production company plans to make a movie about James Dean, the legendary actor who symbolised the vulnerability, sensitivity and rebellion of the 1950s, and the search is on for someone to play the title role.

The movie, which has the approval of the late actor's family, is only in the planning stages but has already prompted a flood of applicants and has had an impact in rural Indiana, where Dean grew up.

"We already know what we don't want," said producer Michael Britton of Sun King Productions. "We won't cast just any actor in this role."

"We don't want Charlie Sheen as James Dean." A known actor playing James Dean, someone whose image is so familiar, would only distract the audience from what we want to convey with this film."

Britton said he has had more than 100 inquiries about the part and a cross-country talent search is planned for September.

"Of course, every actor's agent tells us 'this is it, this is the next James Dean,'" Britton said. "You can't imagine some of the people who come in to read for the part who are supposed to be 'the next one.' It's unfortunate."

Directly

Britton, 44, said he remembers well the hero worship Dean triggered during his career, worship that grew to mythic proportions after the actor was killed on Sept 30, 1955, in an auto crash in California.

"James Dean was the first actor who spoke so directly to the young people of that generation," Britton said. "I like Martin Sheen's quote."

Searching for the right James Dean



James Dean: the legendary actor who symbolised the vulnerability, sensitivity and rebellion of the 1950's

"Marlon Brando taught us how to act, and James Dean taught us how to live."

In Indiana, Dean's family and friends also have found that time has done nothing to diminish the Dean legend.

Family members, including his aunt, Ortense Winslow, his father, Winton Dean, and his cousin, Marcus Winslow, asked the United Management Co. of Indianapolis in 1983 to oversee the licensing of Dean's name and likeness.

"Dean's survivors were just overwhelmed with requests," said company attorney Mark Roessler. "There were at least three other requests for film projects when this one was approved."

Other films that have been made about Dean's life. A 1957 documentary by director Robert Altman. The James Dean Story, included footage of the actor at work and in leisure moments, and interviews with friends and family members in Illinois.



Tom Selleck: No. 25 in the millionaire stakes

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

OSTEOPOROSIS NOT SIMPLY A CALCIUM-DEFICIENCY DISEASE

QUESTION: I'm worried about osteoporosis, especially because my grandmother broke her hip and was in a lot of pain before she died. I've been taking calcium supplements, but I really wonder if calcium is the "cure" for the problem.

ANSWER: Hundreds of doctors, specializing in osteoporosis, arthritis, musculoskeletal problems and aging, recently concluded at a conference that it is unlikely osteoporosis is simply a calcium-deficiency disease. They did, however, also agree that the current recommended dietary allowance of calcium — 800 milligrams a day — is too low.

For people at risk of osteoporosis, the doctors concluded 1,500 milligrams of calcium is necessary. A public health service study has found that the average dietary calcium intake of middle-aged and elderly women was only 550 milligrams — far below the minimum requirements.

As many as half of all American women older than 50 and 90 per cent older than 75 may be afflicted with osteoporosis.

The bone loss due to this disease makes the elderly especially prone to broken bones and fractures. Recent research has shown

that elderly women and men may have problems absorbing calcium, and this may, in turn, require them to take in a much larger amount of dietary calcium. It has been determined that not all foods that contain calcium have a form of it that is readily absorbed by the body. An example of this is spinach — although this vegetable contains calcium, it has only a negligible bioavailability — that is, the amount that is readily available for absorption by the body.

Surprisingly, some experts say that generic calcium supplements have much less bioavailability than brand names.

It also has been found that calcium citrate supplements are more easily absorbed than calcium carbonate.

While calcium supplementation forms an important weapon against osteoporosis, it is not the only one. The use of estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) is considered by many experts to be essential in any treatment plan, although there are still questions about this therapy that remained to be answered.

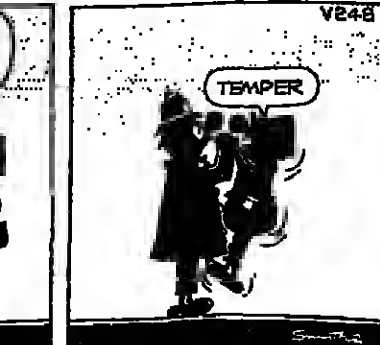
QUESTION: What's that ugly thing on Mikhail Gorbachev's head? I think it looks terrible. Can't you tell him to get it fixed?

ANSWER: The purple discolouration on the Soviet premier's pate is probably a congenital birthmark. It's commonly known as a "port wine stain" (a medical terminology — a nevus flammeus) and is due to dilation or widening of blood vessels in the skin. As such it is classified as a benign tumour of the circulatory system known as a hemangioma, and it is of no danger to the health of the premier.

I doubt he would listen to any advice from me and probably doesn't feel that his appearance is in any way impaired by this mark. However, if he did want to have it fixed, there are a number of procedures that might help. Freezing with carbon dioxide, the use of lasers to obliterate the vessels, or even plastic surgery to remove the "stained" tissue all would be options available to him. If he wished to avoid surgery, an opaque cosmetic cream could be prepared to match the colour of his skin and thus conceal the blemish. Many people share your opinion about the birthmark, but apparently Mikhail Gorbachev is not one of them.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

OUTLOOK

Get a professional ... a different one

By Kathy Cuddihy

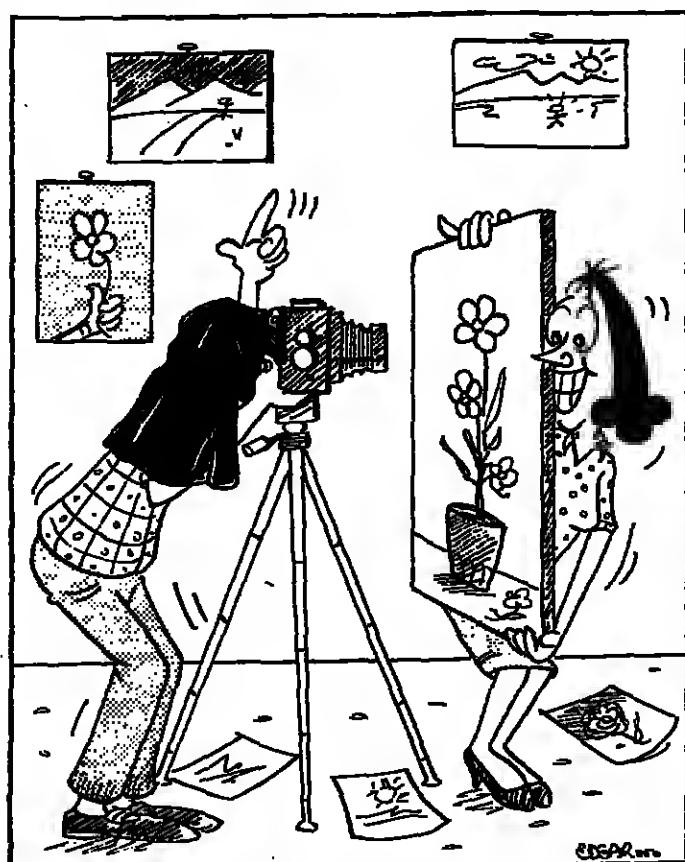
AN old expression about the cobbler's children not having any shoes made me wonder how the adage would apply, with a few modifications, in modern society. After all, cobblers are getting a bit scarce these days.

Complaints from my mother-in-law told me I didn't have to wonder for too long. For months she had been after her husband to make various repairs around the house. To her ongoing frustration, this creative and skilled handyman was always too happily engaged in doing odd jobs in other people's homes to have the time to perform such menial tasks in his own.

This is rather like the Cordon Bleu chef who works hard all day supervising a bunch of sous-chefs. When he comes home, he doesn't have the slightest inclination to walk into a kitchen — let alone whip up a tasty little gourmet meal for his beleaguered wife. Could you imagine being married to a man like that? I'd make culinary performance a condition of the marriage!

In my experience, doctors are usually the most notorious for not looking after themselves when they're sick. I haven't decided yet whether they're too busy to follow their own advice, or too intolerant of sick people to even themselves in that predicament. Of course, the other possibility that flashes through my mind is that deep down they know their prescriptions aren't worth the paper they're written on, and they'll be the last people to be fooled by a lot of quackery!

Our doctor friends fall into two main categories when they become ill: those who don't medicate, and



those who overmedicate. Many is the doctor I've nursed back to health with a few simple home remedies. Charming, they are more appreciative than most people with the results of these "miraculous" cures.

The overmedicators have no patience to wait out recovery. They bombard themselves with antibiotics and other powerful drugs with the attitude that life can be better through chemicals. These are the same fellows who prescribe "two aspirins, plenty of liquid, and bed rest" to their patients.

This professional inertia on home territory seems to leave few occupations unscathed. Tradesmen, too, have their domestic problems. We have two extremely talented wood carvers/carpenters who have done a beautiful job on all the woodwork in our home. Neither has finished

the interior of his own house. One of them has managed to hang only "a few" doors in his place. He calls it "open plan" ... for the moment.

Painters fare no better. One young decorator friend had the admirable intention of completely painting his newly-built house before he and his bride moved in. He made a hesitant start. Eventually, after almost two years and a few dire threats from his wife, he made a hasty finish — but only of the interior. Five years later, the exterior is still waiting for a paint job.

Acc photographers should not be excluded from the list of offenders. I've known enough in my time to recognise the same pattern. They have spectacular shots of everything from still life to wildlife ... but don't expect to find a selection of family portraits or candid holiday shots. "That sort of

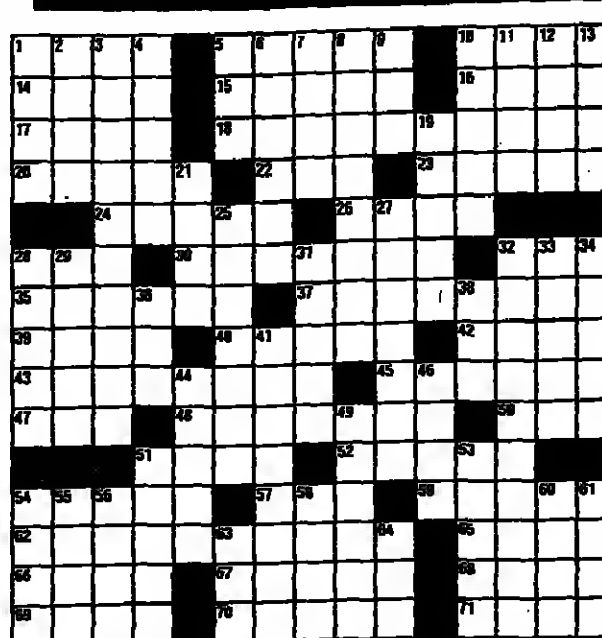
thing isn't commercial. Who'd want to look at pile of happy soaps?" The family, perhaps? Admittedly, some photographers include family members in their commercial shoots. They can be seen as artistic silhouettes, or a face in a crowd, or the dot walking along the beach.

Dentists would seem to be the rare exception to the rule. I have never seen one with anything less than a perfect mouth of teeth and a toothpaste smile — a result, no doubt, of the fat fees they're pulling in for all the teeth they're pulling out. Although they show concern for themselves and their families, a few of them have rather questionable attitudes towards potential patients: we have a dentist friend who is forever giving out candy to children he knows. When I chastise him, protesting that such a practice is not good for his image, he has the nerve to laugh and say, "On the contrary, my dear, it's wonderful for business."

After all this criticism of other professions, where does that leave writers? Well, writers write, of course. That should be perfectly obvious. And because they're so poorly paid (take note, dear editor!), freelance writers (like me) write more than most writers. Oh, alright. I'll confess that our long-distance phone bill tends to act as a barometer of my successes or failures. The busier I am with assignments, the less time I have to attend to personal correspondence. In lieu of letter-writing, I therefore resort to the telephone to keep in contact with family and friends.

But, then, in this technological era, even writers know that relatively few people write letters anymore....

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Fleishy fruit
5 Small land mass
10 Prepare by heat
14 A Carter et al.
15 Flammable
16 Merchandise
17 Cheers
18 Be compassionate
20 Wicker basket
22 Servicewoman, circa 1950:
23 Desert stops
24 Nepal native
26 Hardy heroine
28 Spring mo.
30 Doubt
32 Home owners org.
35 Besides
37 Last of the highway
39 Wild ox
40 Partner of ways
42 Pro —
43 Stamp of the 1980s
45 Native of Luzon
47 Explosive: Abbr.
48 Furloughed
50 Taipei airport code
51 Dissident
52 Displays, for short
54 Play
57 Copter feature
59 Miscues

DOWN

1 Paris green spot
2 Khayyam
3 "I'm eating —"
4 Curves
5 Standoff's ending
6 Dancer Ted et al.
7 Etna's output
8 November event
9 Oolong or Pekoe
10 Fido's problem
11 Inlets
12 Regarding
13 Asian holidays
19 Sprayed
21 Kind of bean
25 Disorder
27 Elusory
28 Floating: to a poet
29 Pine nut tree
31 Fireplace
32 "My — mouth"
33 Successful

ACROSS

34 "With Judy": Taylor 1948 movie
35 Refuge: Abbr.
38 Bow sign
41 Energizes
44 Schwarzenegger's barbarian
45 Stones
49 Actress: Renee
51 Fighting
53 Hodgepodge
54 Roman 3001
55 Affirmatives
56 — bone
58 27th President
60 Hammer part
61 Transport
63 Complexion
64 Pts. for Bears

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

BETTER LUCKY THAN RICH?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 3

♥ K J 6 5 4

♦ Q 7 6 5

♣ Q 8 2

WEST

♠ 6 2

♥ 10 7 2

♦ J 10 8 3 2

♣ 10 6 4

EAST

♠ 8 5

♥ Q 9 8 3

♦ K 9

♣ K 9 7 5 3

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J 10 9 7 4

♥ A

♦ A 4

♣ A J

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

4 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass

5 NT Pass 6 ♦ Pass

6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Many moons ago, we had a partner who loved to bid slams. It was his belief that, if you had 11 sure tricks, you could usually drum up a 12th. And if you could count 12 tricks, there was some way to squeeze out another. Strange thing, he was right more often than not. He would have loved this hand.

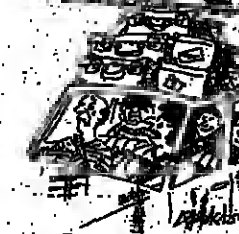
North's two diamond response to the artificial two-club demand bid was not necessarily negative—most expert pairs play that you cannot make a positive response on a five-card suit unless it is headed by two of the three top honors. Since his partner's king was likely to be in

hearts and, as a result, there would be no entry to the North hand, South settled in six spades to take advantage of his honors.

West made a normal lead of the jack of diamonds, and declarer's first good move was to believe that the lead was unlikely to be away from an inside tenace. There were 11 sure tricks, and declarer saw that, if either defender held both minor-suit kings, or if West held the king of diamonds and East the king of clubs, the contract was cold.

Declarer played low from dummy to the first trick and, when the nine of diamonds appeared from East, he decided to play that defender for either K-9 or Q-9. Therefore, he won the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and ran all eight of his spades, coming down to the king of hearts and Q-8 of diamonds on the board. He then exited with a diamond, rising with the queen when West followed low. West was forced to return a club, and a successful finesse landed a well-played slam.

PETROL



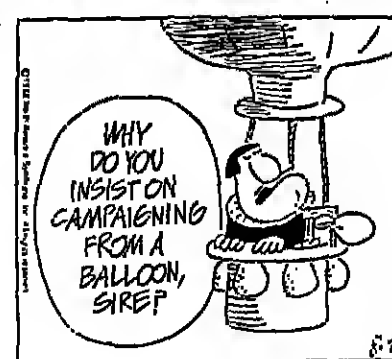
"You'd better buy lead-free petrol... we're carrying enough weight as it is!"



"How about calling them Rob and Nick?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



WHY DO YOU INSIST ON CAMPAIGNING FROM A BALLOON, SKEP?



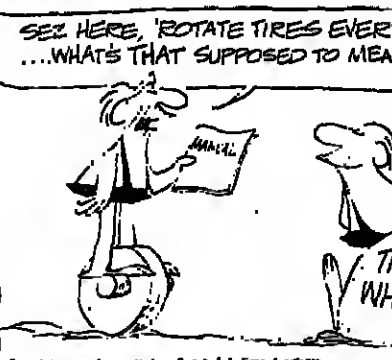
"FROM UP HERE, THE PEASANTS ARE ALMOST... ALMOST..."



INSIGNIFICANT? GOTCHA

B.C.

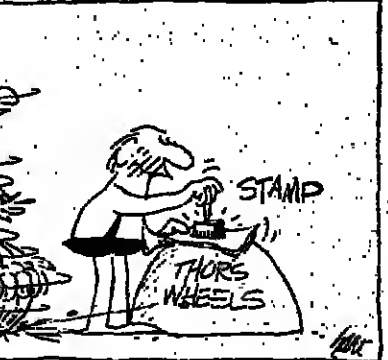
By Johnny Hart



SEE HERE, 'ROTATE TIRES EVERY 1000 MI.' ...WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



THOR'S WHEELS



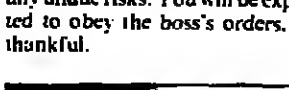
STAMP

YOUR STARS



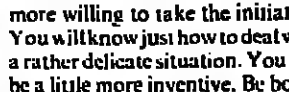
Aries (March 21 - April 18)

You will tend to be rather nervous and a little unsure of yourself. You should try to keep things as simple as possible and not to take any undue risks. You will be expected to obey the boss's orders. Be thankful.



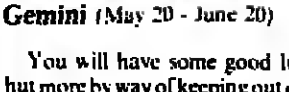
Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be in a better mood and more willing to take the initiative. You will know just how to deal with a rather delicate situation. You will be a little more inventive. Be bold.



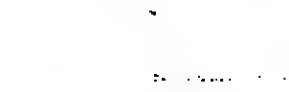
Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will have some good luck but more by way of keeping out of a bad situation than by way of financial gain. You should make sure you do not lose your temper. Do not expect others always to agree with you. Be less solemn.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be able to do something you have been meaning to do for ages. You will tend to get annoyed because things are taking longer than you thought. You should try to look more on the positive side. Be malleable.



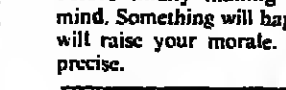
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will be able to do something a little more practical and useful. You should make sure you can meet your existing commitments before you take on any ones. Make sure you do not allow yourself to be taken advantage of. Be tolerant.



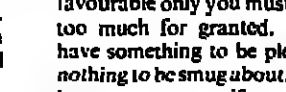
Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will not be in the best of moods and will just have to try to make the most of what you have. You should think a little longer before finally making up your mind. Something will happen that will raise your morale. Be more precise.



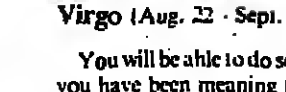
Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

The situation is prevalently favourable only you must not take too much for granted. You will have something to be pleased but nothing to be smug about. You will have to persevere if you want to learn something new. Be sensible.



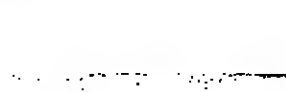
Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

Concentrate on essentials and leave the details until later. And make sure you do not allow yourself to be distracted. You will tend to be forgetful so do make notes for yourself. Be firm.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will be rather annoyed with yourself because you are making slow progress with something you are learning. Never mind, persevere and you will succeed. You will be able to do something much to your liking. Be cordial.



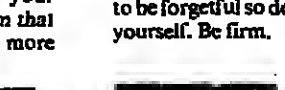
Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Your intuitive powers will be rather more acute but you should always allow reason to have the last word. You must make sure you do not take exercise to a level where you cannot maintain it without strain. You should not insist on having your own way.



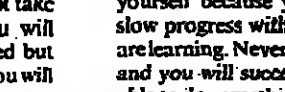
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You should try to tie up a few loose ends before you proceed much further. You will have greater freedom of action and should avail yourself of it. Make sure you do not betray a secret. Be sensible.



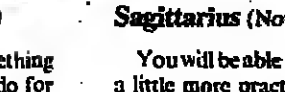
Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will be able to do a friend a great favour. You will have the energy you need to make progress. You must avoid doing anything that in your heart you know would be pointless. Make sure you do not overstep. Be frank but not loquacious.



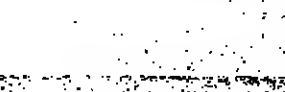
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Could you be Princess Diana?

By Mary Kemp

IMAGINE having the most famous and photographed face in the world... with hundreds of dresses and hats in the wardrobe.

Imagine never having to worry about money, doing the washing up or cleaning the house.

But then again, imagine having to attend four public engagements a week, never looking anything less than a princess and always being polite.

Imagine never being able to walk down the street alone or take a family holiday without the world's press watching your every facial expression.

Because this is the life of Princess Diana. Since her early days as a kindergarten teacher to the more recent speculation that her marriage was on the rocks, Diana has been under an unrelenting spotlight.

So could you cope with living in the royal goldfish bowl? Do this quiz and find out...

1. How would you feel about being a real trend setter? Would you:

(a) Encourage it?

(b) Feel flattered?

(c) Play it down?

(d) Hate it?

2. You are invited to plant yet another tree. What is your reaction?

(a) You are in your green wellies before your car has arrived.

(b) Refuse point blank.

(c) Pretend you have got a headache.

(d) You would rather go for a swim, but accept graciously.

3. How would you feel about spending KD1000 on a ballgown?

(a) Think nothing of it.

(b) Feel that money could be better spent.

(c) Guilty, but what the hell.

(d) Never dream of wearing something so expensive.

4. You want to go and buy some sexy underwear but your detective insists he comes along. Do you:

(a) Try and persuade him to let you go by yourself?

(b) Feel embarrassed, but agree?

(c) Cancel the whole shopping spree?

(d) Laugh and say he can help you choose?

It is now seven years since Lady Diana Spencer became one of the wealthiest and most written about girls in the world by marrying Prince Charles. So how well could you cope with her job?



Princess Diana: the most photographed face in the world today

5. What do you do when your husband is away on a royal tour?

(a) Miss him, but get on with life.

(b) Have a good time without him.

(c) Put on a brave face.

(d) Stay in your room.

6. How confident are you at public speaking?

(a) Very.

(b) Will do it only if you are forced.

(c) You avoid it at all costs.

(d) You are willing to give it a go.

7. How would you face long separations from your children?

(a) Hate every minute you are apart.

(b) Not miss them at all.

(c) Telephone them all the time.

(d) Enjoy the peace and quiet, but look forward to seeing them again.

8. A plateful of goats' eyeballs is served to you at a foreign banquet. Do you:

(a) Try to smuggle them into your handbag?

(b) Turn up your nose?

(c) Tuck in?

(d) Politely decline?

9. How would you cope with exaggerated newspaper stories about you?

(a) Find them a real hoot?

(b) Be very hurt?

(c) Giggle?

(d) Think nothing of them?

10. To a certain extent your children's destiny has already been mapped out. Does this bother you?

(a) Not at all.

(b) You wish it could be different but accept it.

(c) Love it because it means less responsibility.

(d) You could not cope otherwise.

11. Your husband goes on an official visit to Swaziland but has to leave you behind. What is your reaction?

(a) You throw a tantrum.

(b) Try to persuade him to let you go along.

(c) Cheerfully see him off.

(d) Accept it as part of your duty, but feel peeved.

12. You dislike horses but the rest of your family loves them. Do you:

(a) Take up riding?

(b) Have as little to do with them as possible?

(c) Put up with it?

(d) Refuse to saddle up ever again?

13. You are at a friend's wedding when the photographer starts pointing the camera at you. Do you:

(a) Politely ignore him?

(b) Co-operate and pose?

(c) Smile but keep walking?

(d) Tell him to go away?

14. How would you feel about the prospect of becoming the Queen of England?

(a) Terrified?

(b) Excited?

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Experts review economic coordination policies

Debt crisis forces profound changes in IMF, World Bank

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (Reuters) Six years of the Third World debt crisis have wrought revolutionary change in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank but critics believe they have not moved forcefully enough to bring about economic reform in debtor countries.

Many bankers, academics and even some government officials want for a new initiative by the bank and fund — "we need to move now," a Western diplomat said. "In many ways the situation is getting worse. The poorest countries are barely hanging on."

Crisis The debt crisis may be among leading issues at the annual meeting of the fund and bank, starting this week in West Berlin.

When the debt crisis broke in 1982, with Mexico saying it might not be able to pay interest on its foreign debt, then IMF managing director Jacques de Larosiere and former Fed chairman Paul Volcker moved quickly to organize a rescue mission.

Three years ago then US Treasury Secretary James Baker proposed a debt initiative designed to help countries grow out of their problems through an

infusion of new funds. While many feel the Baker plan fell short, they agree it gave direction to the debt effort. "Where is the leadership now?" asked one critic.

Defenders of IMF managing director Michel Camdessus and World Bank president Barber Conable say such criticism is unfair and fails to recognise that major changes have occurred since the two took office in 1986.

Conable, who served in the US Congress for 20 years, quickly implemented reforms at the development bank, pruning dozens of executives in an effort to streamline bank operations.

He has also persuaded the bank's shareholder governments to agree on a \$74.8 billion capital increase, the US portion of which has still not been approved by Congress.

Change Camdessus, a former governor of the Bank of France, pushed through a tripling of the structural adjustment facility, a pool of funds to help the very poorest countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

In many ways, the most far-reaching change is that the role of the two institutions play is now less clear cut, their lending directed more and more toward help-

ing countries deal with the debt crisis.

The bank, especially, is making more and more loans designed to spur economic reform instead of financing projects such as roads and bridges.

For his part, Camdessus is pressing hard for new funding for the IMF through an increase in member quotas, or subscriptions, that could double the agency's resources, now at about \$115 billion.

A senior IMF official has said the fund will informally discuss the increase during the upcoming meetings, although action on the issue has been postponed until April.

Helmut Hartmann, an IMF spokesman, told reporters last week: "We expect no historical decisions."

The plenary session of the World Bank-IMF conference is set for Sept. 27-29. That is where representatives of all 151 countries will present their nation's positions on various economic issues.

But preliminary talks — including a meeting of officials of world's seven largest industrial democracies (G-7) — began on Sept. 22. Members of the G-7 are the United States, West Germany, Japan, Canada, France,

Britain and Italy.

Also scheduled to meet this week — on Sept. 22 — are deputy finance ministers of the so-called group-of-24 developing countries.

According to the IMF's annual report released on Sept. 14, the industrial nations are in good financial health but the overall situation among developing countries remains far from satisfactory.

The IMF report said the total debt of the developing countries increased 10.4 per cent in 1987 from the previous year to \$1.2 trillion.

Growth The average growth rate in the developing countries fell from 4.2 per cent in 1986 to 3.4 per cent in 1987, the IMF report said.

The plight of developing nations will likely be dramatised in West Berlin by protests being run concurrent with the finance meetings.

About 40,000 protesters have said they will come to West Berlin to denounce what they see as unfair treatment of the developing nations by richer industrialised lands and calling for general Third World debt relief, according to organisers. The industrialised nations and

private banks encourage developing countries to undertake economic reform in exchange for help with their debts.

Pietsch, the West German economist, says that is a strategy that continues to show the most promise. "A general debt relief would not help to stabilise economies and societies," Pietsch said.

"We need to be flexible and look for new instruments (to help reduce developing countries' debts). The debt countries are also creating lots of innovations in order to overcome their problems."

French Economics Minister Pierre Bérégovoy has indicated that during the West Berlin discussions he plans to unveil a proposal aimed at encouraging banks to step up their lending to middle-income debtors.

Third World debt may be end up being the best publicised issue during the West Berlin discussions, but it certainly won't be the only one on world finance leaders' agendas.

Other topics likely to be discussed are the US trade and budget deficits, protectionism and high inflation in Latin America. And during the West Berlin discussions, the G-7 nations are

scheduled to review their economic coordination policies, although a date for those discussions had not yet been set.

Observers say it is likely the G-7 will reaffirm their intention to keep the dollar steady at around current levels and restate their position that an excessive rise or fall of the dollar would be counterproductive.

West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said earlier this month, "a deviation of the dollar (from its current levels) ... level would cause renewed problems in the fields of interest rates, prices and trade for us and our partner countries."

The United States, represented by its newly appointed Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, is expected to stress that whoever becomes the next US president, co-operation with the other G-7 nations would be perpetuated.

There could also be discussions of a possible Soviet entry in the IMF.

Hans Klein, West Germany's Minister for Economic Co-operation, said last week he would be "extremely happy" with such a move, which he said would likely speed up structural economic reform with the Soviet Union.

Jordan bank tightens currency regulations

AMMAN, Sept. 20. (Reuters) Jordan's Central Bank has slashed the amount of money citizens can transfer abroad in a bid to protect foreign currency reserves, an official said today.

A Central Bank official, who declined to be named, told Reuters the annual ceiling had been cut to 1,000 dinars (\$2,645) from 5,000 dinars (\$13,225) a week ago.

He said any individual wanting to transfer more than 1,000 dinars for travel, medical treatment or education would need Central Bank approval. "Applications will be processed within two days," he said.

Reserves Jordan's foreign exchange reserves plunged to a record low of \$18.7 million in June from 199 million in June 1987, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem told the English-language Jordan Times that the new measure was decided by the National Economic Security Committee, a government body with sweeping martial law powers.

Qatar to seek world loan for Northfield Gas project

DOHA, Sept. 20. (OPECNA) Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) plans to raise \$400 million from the capital market to partly finance the development of its Northfield Gas field.

Several international, Gulf and local commercial banks already expressed interest to participate in the financing of what is considered the world's largest single gas reservoir.

The Gulf Times reported that it was yet to be decided who would lead-manage the syndicated loan.

Industry sources, however, said that if oil prices improve to \$20 a barrel, QGPC would not need any loan to execute the project.

The issue of raising the loan will be discussed at a meeting this week at the QGPC headquarters. Meanwhile, representatives of the First Boston Corporation, which acts as the financial consultant to the Northfield Finance Committee, already arrived here.

China ready to help Iran's reconstruction

BEIJING, Sept. 20. (Reuters) China is ready to do its best to help Iran rebuild its war-ravaged economy, Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun told the head of Iran's reconstruction work today.

"China and Iran are friendly countries... China is willing to do its best towards Iran's reconstruction," Tian was quoted by state radio as saying.

Hamid Mirzadeh is heading a delegation of trade officials attending the Iran-China joint economic commission in Beijing. The radio news report did not give any details of how China would help Iran after eight years of war with Iraq.

Japanese official stakes out differences with US on debt

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (Reuters) Japan, underlining its differences with the United States on a major economic issue, called today for international lending agencies to play a more active role in tackling the Third World debt crisis.

Tomomitsu Oba, special adviser to Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, urged the World Bank to guarantee more commercial bank loans in order to spur fresh lending to cash-strapped developing countries.

Crisis The World Bank plays a key role in the debt strategy mapped out by former US Treasury Secretary James Baker, but the Reagan administration opposes a blanket use of guarantees, arguing that they shift risk from banks to the public sector.

The administration, for much the same reason, is already at odds with Japan over a proposal that Miyazawa made at the seven-nation economic summit in June for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to

administer trust funds that would be used by poor countries to pay interest on their foreign debts.

The debt crisis, and Miyazawa's plan, will be at the top of the agenda at this week's annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank, as it has been since the crisis erupted in 1982.

Oba was speaking at a conference on what advice to offer the new president on the issues of debt, trade and the dollar. Roger Altman, an adviser to Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis, said the new president needed to redouble the government's efforts before the next recession in the industrial world made the debt crisis even more acute.

Japan should move into the "sunlight of leadership" and the World Bank had to be brought back to centre stage.

"During the 1980s there's been an eerie silence over there," Altman, vice-chairman of the Blackstone Group, a Wall Street merchant banking firm, said of the World Bank.

Senator Bill Bradley said democracy in Latin America would not survive unless a solution was found to the debt crisis and he attacked the White House for opposing debt relief plans.

Austerity If US-imposed austerity toppled democratic governments, the resulting political turbulence would not only pose a regional problem but would also prevent the next president from championing democracy in the world, Bradley argued.

"The next president must master the conflict between debt and democracy or Latin politics will master his foreign policy agenda," he said in a warmly applauded speech.

A leading Japanese banker agreed that the financial crisis in Latin America was turning into a political crisis.

"I regret to say that it is not only impossible to demand these countries under such difficulties to repay their debts, but it is politically dangerous," said Yoh Kurosawa, deputy president of the Industrial Bank of Japan.

UAE won't withdraw its demand for higher oil output

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Sept. 20. (AP) Oil Minister Mansour bin Zayed said today the United Arab Emirates would not withdraw its demand for a higher oil production quota for the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Otaiba said: "1.5 million barrels a day is a fixed and firm oil production quota for the UAE."

OPEC fixed the UAE's production quota in December at 948,000 barrels a day.

The UAE minister spoke to reporters after receiving the Lebanese Cedar Medal presented by the Lebanese embassy on behalf of President Amin Gemayel.

Decision "I have received the medal in recognition of my efforts, under the directives of UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in solving problems among various Arab countries, and my cultural contributions as a poet," Otaiba said.

He said the UAE would back any OPEC decision to comply with demands by Iraq and Iran for higher production rates, but

did not elaborate. Iraq had sought parity with Iran, whose quota was fixed at 2.36 million barrels a day. Iran rejected the Iraqi demand.

More recently, Iraq announced it would not reduce its output, estimated at 2.7 million barrels per day. OPEC had fixed Iraq's quota at 1.5 million barrels a day.

Last week, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi told a Kuwaiti newspaper that he would not accept any production restrictions because of war-related debts and the need to finance post-war reconstruction.

The UAE also has been accused of pumping more than its OPEC-decreed quota. Other members of the 13-member organisation have complained that UAE and Iraqi overproduction was contributing to a glut on the world oil market that has caused a sharp decline of oil prices.

OPEC's price monitoring committee is meeting this week to discuss how to redress the situation and raise prices by about \$5 to \$6 to OPEC's benchmark of \$18 a barrel.

Agreement will create jobs and stimulate economic growth: Reagan

US Senate approves trade pact with Canada

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (AP) President Ronald Reagan has lauded the Senate for approving a landmark free-trade agreement with Canada. Reagan said negotiators for both countries had reached an accord that "will benefit our people for generations to come."

The 83-9 vote by the Senate yesterday would clear the way, on the United States' part, in phasing out tariffs on \$131 billion in merchandise that crosses the US-Canadian border each year.

"The agreement will create jobs and stimulate economic growth on both sides of the border and create the largest open market in the world," Reagan said in a statement read yesterday.

US trade representative Clayton Yeutter said in a statement yesterday's overwhelming vote by the Senate "puts us one step closer to the culmination of a century-long dream on both sides of the border."

Curbs The bill, which now goes to Reagan's desk, would open the door for a 10-year phase-out of tariffs and a number of other trade curbs under the pact signed in January by the President and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

But political problems on the Canadian side must be resolved first. Canada's House of Commons has passed a bill to start the tariff phase-out, but majority Liberals in the appointive Senate have bottled it up until Mulroney calls new elections.

Policy Mulroney is expected to call elections within a few weeks. Defeat for his Conservative Party could doom the plan in the new Parliament.

The free-trade zone established under the agreement would differ sharply from a common market.

The European Economic Community, for example, maintains a unified trade policy toward the rest of the world. A US-Canada free-trade zone would merely remove barriers between the North American neighbours. The two countries would continue to have separate sets of tariffs and quotas on imports from third countries.

Israel is the only country that now has a free-trade agreement with the United States. But the volume is small compared with the \$131 billion in goods a year that make Canada this country's top trading partner.

Japan, No. 2 in trade with the

United States, and Mexico have both been mentioned as possibilities for free-trade partners in the distant future.

Despite strong support from a majority, the measure drew opposition to the end from several senators representing energy- and wheat-producing states. The measure already has cleared the House of Representatives.

In talks leading to the pact, Canadians agreed to drop subsidies for rail shipment of grain to Vancouver but not similar payments to defray costs of sending wheat to the giant port at Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Bid to make industry more responsive to consumer demand

Moscow to introduce cost accounting reforms in business

MOSCOW, Sept. 20. (UPI) The government, showing it is serious about introducing capitalist-style cost accounting reforms in state-run industry, has declared 31 state-run industrial enterprises insolvent within six months to achieve a turnaround before being closed or turned over to private management, a Soviet newspaper said today.

The daily Socialist Industry newspaper warned that many more firms were on the verge of going under as the reforms introduced in January by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev began to have a real, if somewhat negative impact, on Soviet business and commerce.

Prior to the introduction of a strict profit and loss system of accounts in 60 per cent of the country's industry nine months ago, bankruptcy was unheard of in the Soviet Union.

Costs Previously the government would subsidise loss-making firms at all costs to avoid unemployment and the embarrassment of admitting inefficiency and failure. One government estimate last November said 13

per cent of all state-run firms were operating at a loss. Their collective debt totalled 38 billion rubles (\$60.8 billion).

In an attempt to jar workers and management into greater productivity, Gorbachev has ordered wages tied directly to output, permitted unemployment in a country that for half a century boasted of having full employment and cut back the government safety net that kept badly-run firms operating.

Productivity The reforms are aimed at making Soviet industry more responsive to consumer demand and to wean it from the slavish adherence to strict production quotas devised by the state's now disgraced central planning authorities. The quota system based on gross output without quality controls often produced vast surpluses of unneeded goods of poor quality while real consumer and industrial needs went unmet. Figures were often faked to ensure quotas were met.

Socialist industry said wastefulness, bad management and poor worker productivity led to the fiscal problems at the 31 firms

targeted by the government, as the first go through what amounts to bankruptcy proceedings.

It said the firms declared insolvent in recent months ranged from a large timber mill in eastern Siberia which had assets of rubles 3.2 million (\$5.12 million) and debts of rubles 13.2 million (\$21.2 million) to machine building plant in European Russia that was rubles 9 million (\$14.4 million) in debt.

The giant Kharkov tractor engine factory in the Ukraine was also on the list.

"What are the reasons for these failures? It is wastefulness and bad management and it is not only the chief managers who are to blame for this but also those working at these enterprises and organisations. There are still many more candidates for this unenviable fate," the newspaper quoted Mikhail Zotov, chairman of the board of the USSR Industrial Construction Bank, as saying.

"Some of these are probably going to be eliminated due to their uselessness or they will be turned into enterprises of some other type that produce products needed by the population," Zotov said.

Zotov said he was reluctant to use the term bankrupt to describe the fate of the insolvent enterprises but other Soviet economists and the press use the term freely.

He said the accounts of the 31 firms employing tens of thousands of workers have been "transferred to a special regime of credits and accounting" at state banks. Borrowing from state banks is sharply curtailed. After six months the firms will either be closed completely or handed over to a private co-operative which will operate it on a "for profit" basis.

Cuts Last year Socialist Industry warned that some 60,000 managers and technical staff at 24 government ministries would be laid off as part of the economic reform programme.

Other newspapers have reported strikes at a bus factory in the Ural mountains and a shipyard in Leningrad by disgruntled workers upset over pay cuts triggered by the reforms.

Official Soviet statistics said

the growth rate in the economy for 1987 was only 2.3 per cent or the second lowest level since the end of World War II.

A US intelligence report released earlier this year called Soviet economic performance "stagnant" and warned Gorbachev's reforms faced serious difficulties from disaffected workers and bureaucrats fearful of losing what little benefits they already have.

Pertamina to build oil pipeline in Java

JAKARTA, Sept. 20. (OPECNA) Pertamina, the Indonesian state oil company, will develop a 580-km product pipeline system linking its Cilacap refinery in central Java to the greater Jakarta region and the provinces of west Java and central Java.

According to a Pertamina spokesman, the project, to be designed for a capacity of 4.60 million kilolitres a year, will cost about \$306 million based on a recent feasibility study.

World Business Summary

Oman ready to back OPEC price stand

SINGAPORE, Sept. 20. (Reuters) Oman is willing to explore all reasonable ways to help OPEC restore oil prices to the organisation's \$18-a-barrel target, Oman's Oil Minister Rashid Bin Khilid Al Barwani said. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC producers will eventually act together to support oil prices, which have fallen nearly \$6 below the target, he told the Asia-Pacific Petroleum conference. "Joint action and close co-operation by OPEC and non-OPEC producers is very essential to confront any further deterioration in the oil markets," he said. Egypt's Oil Minister, Abdulhadi Kandil, earlier said Egypt was still ready to help OPEC bolster sagging oil prices. Oman and Egypt were two of the six non-OPEC oil producers which in April offered to cut their exports by five per cent for two months if OPEC countries made a similar reduction. OPEC failed to respond to this offer and oil prices have deteriorated steadily. "Despite the initial unsuccessful attempt to stem a fall in oil prices, Oman believes that the time will come when all major oil exporters will join forces to maintain some degree of order in the world oil market," Barwani said. He said the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, which took effect on August 20, would also help producers' efforts to boost prices.

"Now that the Iran-Iraq war is in the process of coming to an end, the chances for the success of such an initiative are now much greater than ever." He said if oil prices dropped as low as \$10 a barrel, some large, high-cost producers in oil importing countries may impose oil import taxes to protect the domestic industry. Such a move would cut the oil exporters' revenue, he said. "It is difficult to believe oil exporting countries will allow this to happen."

Secret US-Soviet grain talks fail to reach pact

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (Reuters) US and Soviet officials met secretly last weekend in Vienna to negotiate a new grain pact but a US negotiator said on Monday no agreement was reached in the fourth round of the grain talks. No further meetings have been scheduled. The current five-year agreement between Washington and Moscow, the biggest commercial pact of its kind, expires on September 30. It calls for minimum Soviet purchases of nine million metric tonnes of US wheat, corn or soybeans per year. Negotiations over a new multi-billion dollar agreement have been stalemated for some time over persistent differences between the Americans and the Soviets over how much US grain Moscow should be obliged to buy each year and at what price. Officials present at the Vienna meeting said some progress was made in these areas, but that further negotiations were still necessary. "The outlook is more optimistic than it was a few weeks ago, but it certainly is not a done deal," said US negotiator Marilyn Moore. While grain trade between Washington and Moscow has been guided by a formal agreement for over a decade now, experts say that trade between the United States and the Soviet Union, the world's biggest grain traders, will not be harmed if the current agreement expires before a new pact is reached. Moscow has been an active buyer of US corn this month and has purchased almost three million metric tonnes of American corn for autumn shipment. Rumours have circulated that Washington is ready to offer more government-subsidised wheat to Moscow, but negotiators indicated that a new subsidy would not be discussed until a new agreement was in place.

Opponents agree to expedite House action on textile bill

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (AP) Opponents of legislation to curb textile, clothing and shoe imports have agreed to allow a House of Representatives vote on the Senate-passed bill rather than sending it to a House-Senate Conference Committee, a supporter of the measure said today. The decision virtually assures a pre-election showdown on the textile bill between President Ronald Reagan and Congress. The legislation would freeze textile and clothing imports at 1987 levels this year and limit import growth to 1 per cent annually thereafter. It also would cap shoe imports at 1987 levels and prohibit foreign manufacturers from increasing their share of the US market. Democratic Rep. Ed Jenkins of Georgia said he expects the House to vote on Friday to approve the Senate-passed bill and send it to Reagan, whose 1985 veto of a similar textile bill was sustained by just eight votes in the House. "I don't know if we have picked up any votes or not since the last override we had," Jenkins said. "I think it would be a tough job to override." Jenkins said the decision to allow a House vote on the Senate-passed bill was relayed to textile-state lawmakers late last week by Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The committee had voted earlier last week to send the Senate bill to a time-consuming conference committee. With only weeks left before the 100th Congress adjourns, that probably would have enabled Reagan to kill the bill simply by refusing to sign it once Congress left town. Proponents of the legislation contend it is needed to save US jobs in a textile industry whose markets are being flooded with imports. Critics, contending that the industry is flourishing despite imports, say the legislation would narrow consumer choices and encourage manufacturers to cut corners with shoddy goods.

American GNP grows

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (AP) The US economy, fuelled by an export-driven manufacturing boom but held back by losses from the drought, expanded at a strong 3.0 per cent in the April-June quarter, the government said today. The Commerce Department said the gross national product, the broadest measure of economic health, grew to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.99 trillion in the second quarter, a \$29.1-billion increase from the January-March quarter. It was an unexpected downward revision from a preliminary estimate a month ago of 3.3 per cent growth last quarter. The economy had grown at 3.4 per cent annual rate in the first quarter. If not for the drought, second quarter growth would have been a more robust 3.9 per cent. Crop losses for the year are estimated at \$13.9 billion and will be even more of a drag on the economy in the third and fourth quarters. The government attributed the downward revision in the second quarter to slightly less growth than first thought in the two strongest sectors in the economy: export sales and investment spending by business. Exports of goods and services expanded at a 9.1 per cent annual rate, compared with the previous estimate of 11.6 per cent. Business investment spending shot up 15.0 per cent, compared with last month's estimate of 16.3 per cent.

EEC industrial output index up

LUXEMBOURG, Sept. 20. (AP) The index of industrial output in the European Economic Community rose an estimated 3.5 per cent in the first half of 1988 from the same 1987 period, Eurostat, the EEC's statistics agency, reported today. By comparison, industrial output in the United States rose 6 per cent in the first half and Japan's by nearly 11 per cent. The increase in the EEC index was led by a 6.1 per cent jump in production of capital goods. Output of consumer goods rose 3.2 per cent and of intermediate products by 2.6 per cent, Eurostat said. The index, using 1980 as a basis year at 100, was calculated at 111.5 in June, up from 110.1 in May and from 107.4 for all of 1987. Eurostat said the output gains in the first half in the 12 EEC nations varied from 2.5 and 3 per cent in West Germany and France, to around 5 per cent in Britain, Italy and Spain and to nearly 10 per cent in Luxembourg and Ireland. The Netherlands was the only country where industrial output fell by 3.3 per cent in the first half, mainly because of a drop in natural gas production.

LONDON			LONDON		
(Alpha Stocks)			(Beta Stocks)		
NAME	LAST	197/0	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
ABBIE LFE	311/0	199/0	2ND ALLCE	727/0	727/0
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ICI	010/0	249/0			

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1429.9	1418.6	1422.5	1433.2
FT 500 SHR	996.0	996.0	1001.8	1052.0
FT ALL SEC	912.59	912.59	915.49	963.01
FT GVS	87.07	86.50	86.62	87.92
FT GVS HN	168.1	164.4	175.8	202.2
FT MINES F	526.46	526.46	525.15	517.46
FT OIL	1755.7	1755.7	1777.2	1834.0
FT MLD DLR	125.03	124.83	124.83	126.05
FT MLD STG	110.43	110.33	110.16	109.51
FT MLD LOC	115.14	115.31	114.88	115.44

London Stock Market Report

LONDON STOCKS FIRM IN LATE TRADE AFTER MONEY DATA

LONDON, SEPT 20, REUTER - U.K. EQUITIES 5000 FIRM IN LATE TRADING ON RELIEF AT NEWS OF A SMALLER THAN EXPECTED GAIN IN U.K. AUGUST BANK LENDING AND ON THE BACK OF A FIRMER TREND ON WALL STREET, DEALERS SAID.

TODAY'S MAJOR NEWS WAS THE RISE OF 5.8 BILLION STG IN STERLING M4 BANK AND BUILDING SOCIETY LENDING, WHICH COMPARED WITH MANY FORECASTS OF AROUND AN EIGHT BILLION STG INCREASE. DESPITE THE BETTER THAN EXPECTED NUMBER, VOLUME WAS LIGHT AND BY 1400 GMT A MODEST 216 MLD LEADING SHARES HAD CHANGED HANDS.

AT 1430 GMT THE FTSE 100 INDEX HAD GAINED A NET 12.3 POINTS TO 1,772.2 AFTER 1,761.6 JUST PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF THE DATA. STERLING M4, THE NARROWEST MEASURE OF MONEY SUPPLY, ROSE BY ONE PCT IN AUGUST, SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE MARKET MEDIAN FORECAST OF 0.9 PCT. THE GAIN INJECTED A CAUTIONARY NOTE AS HO IS SEEN AS A RELIABLE INDICATOR OF INFLATIONARY PRESSURE.

THE FIGURE TRANSLATES INTO A YEARLY RISE OF 7.8 PCT. SOMEWHAT ABOVE THE GOVERNMENT'S TARGET OF ONE TO FIVE PCT.

DEALERS SAID THE NUTTED RETURN TO THE FIGURES INDICATED NERVOUSNESS OVER NEXT WEEK'S U.K. AUGUST BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DATA. ANALYSTS PREDICT AN AUGUST CURRENT ACCOUNT SHORTFALL OF AROUND 1.45 BILLION STG AFTER THE STOCK 2.15 BILLION DEFICIT IN JULY WHICH SAW THE FTSE 100 FALL NEARLY 40 POINTS ON THE DAY.

London Gold

LONDON, SEPT 20, REUTER - GOLD BULLION CLOSED UP SLIGHTLY FROM RECENT LOWS AS SOME PROFIT-TAKING APPEARED, DEALERS SAID.

BULLION FINISHED AT 410.00/410.50 DLS PR OUNCE, UP 50 CENTS FROM YESTERDAY.

DEALERS SAID THE SLIGHT FIRMING TODAY WAS A PROFIT-TAKING PAUSE IN A MARKET STILL FUNDAMENTALLY BEARISH. THEY STILL EXPECT A TEST OF THE 400 DLS LEVEL SOON.

AN INDICATION OF THE BEARISH TONE IN GOLD WAS THE FAILURE OF THE MARKET TO REACT TO THE UPWARD REVISION OF A KEY BAROMETER OF INFLATION, THE U.S. GNP PRICE DEFLATOR, DEALERS SAID.

London Money Market

LONDON, SEPT 20, REUTER - MONEY RATES SETTLED UP TO 1/4 POINT LOWER THIS AFTERNOON AFTER A GENERALLY BETTER THAN EXPECTED SET OF U.K. AUGUST MONEY SUPPLY AND BANK LENDING FIGURES HELPED CALM CONCERN OVER INFLATION.

IN PARTICULAR, THE RISE IN BANK AND BUILDING SOCIETY LENDING OF 5.8 BILLION STG WAS FAR BELOW FORECASTS AND DEALERS NOW SEE A NEAR TERM NIKE IN BASE RATES AS NICELY UNLIKELY.

HOWEVER, TAN NAMWOOD, CHIEF ECONOMIST AT WARBURG SECURITIES, SAID, "THE MARKET IS OVER-RELIEVED. THE FIGURES DON'T TELL US THAT MUCH ABOUT THE ECONOMY AND I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO SEE A FEW MORE BEFORE IT CAN BREATHE A REAL SIGN OF RELIEF."

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FRF	OPEN
DLR	1.6815/20	1.8675/80	6.3520/40	NOON
STG	1.6815/25	3.1410/45	10.6845/6925	FIX
DMK	1.8646/8726	3.137/151	29.33/49	FIX
FRF	6.348/360	10.674/692	39.69/0.33	FIX
SFR	1.5780-5790	2.6542-6575	84.43-53	CLSE
NFL	2.1090	3.5460	12.94	CLSE
ECU	1.10979	.660001	2.07309	CLSE
SOU	1.29346	0.771294	2.41942	CLSE
YEN	133.85	225.13/44	8.21800	NOON
SDR RATES	20/09/1988	OTHERS	20/09/1988	

NEW YORK			NEW YORK		
(Alpha Stocks)			(Beta Stocks)		
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ICI	010/0	249/0			

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	306.3	310.1	312.3	306.2
AUSTRIA	226.2	225.7	225.4	215.4
BELGIUM	403.2	398.1	393.5	388.2
CANADA	352.8	353.6	353.2	375.1
DENMARK	439.4	436.3	435.7	436.4
FRANCE	381.1	380.5	380.1	370.5
GERMANY	193.9	191.5	191.0	176.9
HONG KONG	1801.9	1807.3	1820.8	1945.9
FINLAND	114.0	116.4	116.7	123.5
ITALY	417.6	411.5	414.3	402.3
JAPAN	1279.4	1278.0	1274.0	1269.9
NETHERLANDS	258.0	260.8	262.8	253.4
NEW ZEAL	95.6	95.6	95.9	96.1
NORWAY	469.1	469.8	464.9	498.9
SPAIN	601.0	603.8	604.9	637.7
SWEDEN	249.2	248.1	248.4	268.6
SWITZ	943.0	931.8	933.4	917.0
U.K.	159.8	158.1	158.5	157.4
U.S.A.	531.3	532.6	533.3	556.5
WORLD	248.0	249.5	247.1	251.9
E.A.F.E.	441.7	441.6	440.1	446.8
	823.9	821.1	821.0	829.3

Advertising in the Financial Pages?

For further details contact,

Arab Times Advertising Department 4816326/7.

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
A BSCN CON	31/1	31/2
ATLANTIC R	80/5	80/7
AAR CORP	25/4	25/5
ABBOTT LAB	48/2	48/2
ACME CLYD	0	9/4
ADV MICRO	11/4	11/4
AEROFAL LAB	7/1	7/1
AETNA LIFE	51/4	51/5
AMWSON	15/6	15/5
AIR PR-CHN	0	41/7
ALASKA AIR	19/3	19/4
ALBERTSONS	34/4	34/2
ALBMA 8-16	0	82/4
ALCAN ALUM	29/4	29/5
ALDO STAND	25/6	26/3
AN CYNADIM	48/5	48/0
AM ELET PW	27/4	27/5
AM NHO PRO	78/7	79/0
AM NHO PRO	79/7	79/7
AM SHYARD	77/6	77/6
AM STORES	54/5	54/4
AM TEL-TEL	26/0	26/1
AMCO CORP	75/3	75/3
AMP INC	42/5	42/6
AMPD PVTY	13/0	13/1
AMP CORP	45/2	45/4
AMR GEN CO	34/2	34/2
AMERADA NE	27/7	28/0
ANTHEM ELE	11/0	11/0
APACHE CP	6/1	6/2
APACHE PET	2/2	2/2
ARMSTRONG	34/3	34/2
ASHLAND OIL	34/5	34/7
ASIA PACIFIC	6/1	6/2
ATLAS CORP	37/5	37/4
AVERT INT	22/2	22/4
AVNET INC	20/1	20/1
AVON PRODS	24/2	24/1
BCE INC	30/0	30/0
BELL SOUTH	39/4	39/6
BELO CP A	0	27/2
BETH STEEL	22/1	22/0
BEVERLY	6/3	6/4
BKX BOSTON	26/6	27/0
BKX BOSTN-A	0	44/2
BKX N-YORK	35/1	35/3
BKX TR-NY	39/0	39/7
BKAMERICA	16/0	16/0
BKMAN SPEC	6/6	6/6
BOEING CO	61/3	61/3
BOISE CASC	42/3	42/4
BHD IN GLD	10/0	10/0
BORDEN	53/4	53/2
BOMATER	30/2	30/1
BR TELECOM	39/3	39/3
BRIGGS-STYR	29/7	29/7
BRIST-HYBR	43/1	43/3
BRUNSWICK	20/2	20/2
BURNBY CO	16/7	16/7
BUS 13 INC	11/7	11/2
CAESARS CORP	39/1	39/3
CAL FREIGHT	23/4	23/4
CAS NAT GS	14/4	14/5
CASH-COOKE	27/2	27/3
CATERPIL TR	55/7	56/1
CB1 IND	27/6	27/6
CBS	168/3	168/3
CENTEL CP	42/2	42/4
CHAMP INTL	32/6	32/5
CHAMP SPA	12/2	12/3
CHARTER CO	3/6	3/7
CHASE MAN	29/4	29/5
CHRENEO CD	32/4	32/5
CHRENIC BKK	32/1	32/3
CHREVIOM	44/3	44/3
CHRYSLER	22/3	22/3
CHUBB CORP	58/0	58/0
CHUR FR CH	6/6	6/5
CIGNA CORP	54/6	54/6
CINC MILACR	20/7	20/6
CIR CIT ST	41/1	41/1
CIRCLE K	13/0	13/2
CITICORP	25/5	25/5
CLARK EQUI	29/3	29/3
CLOROX	31/2	31/1
COMBELL RES	1,00	15
COMBELL SP	29/5	29/7
CAN PAC	16/7	16/7
COACHMAN	11/1	11/1
COASTAL	32/2	32/2
COCA-COLA	42/0	42/2
COLECO	1/6	1/6
COLEMAN CO	36/0	36/3
COLG-PALIN	43/2	42/6
COLMAN GAS	34/6	34/6
COLUMBUS-C	0	113/6
CON EDISON	30/5	30/5
CONAGRA	31/3	31/4
CON EDISON	43/5	43/7
CONTINENTAL	38/6	38/5
CONTEL ILLN	0	.01
CONTEL CP	35/1	35/0
CONTEL DATA	22/5	22/5
COOPER T-R	20/2	20/0
COOPER COM	9/2	9/2
COVINGTON GL	58/1	58/1
CRAY	31/0	31/1
CRAY RES	0	0

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
GE DYNMCS	50/7	50/6
GEN ELECT	43/0	43/1
GEN HOST	10/0	10/0
GEN HOUSAR	7/7	7/7
GEN INSTA	27/7	27/7
GEN MILLS	50/4	50/5
GEN MOTORS	74/2	74/3
GEN SIGNAL	46/7	46/7
GENCORP	20/7	21/0
GENETEC	19/0	18/5
GENLINE PA	36/1	36/3
GEO PW-80	0	74/0
GEORGI-PAC	36/6	36/7
GIBR FI CL	2/7	2/7
GLOBAL MAR	.10	.11
GOLDEN HUG	15/4	15/3
GOODRICH	56/7	56/4
GOODYEAR	57/7	57/7
GOLD INC	22/6	22/6
GRACE WR	25/5	25/5
GRANGER	55/5	55/6
GREYHOUND	33/2	33/0
GRUBMAN	21/6	21/7
GULF RES-C	13/4	13/4
GULF-MESTN	39/6	39/6
HALLIBURTON	26/4	26/2
HALLWOOD	15/6	15/5
HANNA HXN	26/2	26/2
HARSCO CP	26/0	26/0
HARTWAX	26/1	26/3
HEINE KJ	44/5	44/4
HILL CURTIS	37/2	37/2
HILM-PAYNE	21/4	21/2
HEROLD	45/3	45/4
HEAL-PACK	48/2	48/3
HEXCEL CP	38/0	37/7
HILLENBERG	31/6	31/7
HILLENBERD	35/3	35/5
HILTY HTLS	44/4	44/6
HITACHI	130/3	132/7
HINCKLEY NTN	13/6	13/5
HINDY-HARMN	15/6	15/5
HOLIDAY C	26/1	26/2
HOMER DEPOT	26/4	26/5
HOMER FED S	24/3	24/2
HONDA MOTOR	162/6	163/1
HONEYWELL	61/3	61/4
HOUGHTON NI	38/0	38/1
HOUSTON IN	28/7	28/7
HUGHES SUP	16/7	16/6
HUMANA INC	25/6	25/5
IBM	112/5	112/5
IC INDUST	36/4	36/4
ICI PHARMIA	6/4	6/4
ILL PUR CO	19/6	19/5
INNO LTD	27/3	27/2
INDIA GROW	9/4	9/3
JEFF PILOT	34/6	34/6
JER PW B-5	0	81/0
JOHNSON CON	32/7	32/6
JOHNSON-BR	84/3	84/2
K WART CP	37/2	37/2
KAISSER ALUM	18/5	18/6
KAM CI P-L	29/3	29/3
KAM CI P-L	28/2	28/2
KELLOGG	60/6	60/3
KERR MCGEE	37/7	38/0
KEYSTONE	20/4	20/4
KING-CLARK	57/7	58/0
KLM R D AI	16/5	16/5
KON RID MMS	41/0	41/1
KROGER CP	53/0	52/6
LEA ROMAL	16/2	16/3
LEHMAN	12/3	12/4
LENNAR	19/5	19/5
LINCOLN MA	52/2	52/3
LITTON IND	73/3	73/4
LOCKHEED	39/6	40/0
LOCTITE CP	28/5	28/6
LOUIS CORP	77/0	76/6
LOW-METTEL	19/6	19/7
LOWE STAR	30/5	30/4
LOWES	20/5	20/5
LTD INC	21/4	21/5
LTV CORP	2/5	2/4
LTV 1-25	0	3/3
LTV 3-068	4/2	4/1
LTV 5-25	12/0	12/1
LUBRIZOL	36/5	36/7
LUBYS CAFS	24/3	24/2
MAKALISA F	7/3	7/3
MAK ASS	1/5	1/5
MA MARIETTA	40/3	40/5
MA CON INC	10/1	10/2
MACILLAN	86/3	86/3
MAKOR CARE	12/2	12/2
MAKRI HANOV	29/5	29/6
MARRIOTT	29/1	29/2
MASCO CORP	25/3	25/3
MATSU ELEC	192/5	195/6
MATTEL INC	9/0	9/0
MCA INCORP	44/0	44/0
MCDONALDS	64/4	64/5
MCDONNELL	64/5	64/0
MCGRAW-HIL	70/6	70/5
MEAD	44/2	44/0
MERCK - CO	57/7	57/5
MEREDITH	31/3	31/4
MERRILL LY	26/4	26/5
MESA OFFSH	1/5	1/4
MOBIL OIL	44/0	44/0
MONSANTO	76/5	76/2
MONTEANA JP	35/4	35/4
MORGAN PO	37/7	38/0
MORT THIO	39/2	39/1
MOTROLA	43/0	43/1
MRSN-MCLN	55/6	56/0
MURPHY OIL	30/7	30/4
NAT INTERG	16/6	16/4
NBI CORP	3/1	3/0
NCR CORP	58/4	58/7
NEW ENG EL	23/6	23/4
NEW PLA RE	14/6	14/6
NEWELL CO	22/4	22/7
NEWPORT INC	33/4	33/4
NEWPORT GLD	33/5	33/3
NI MOH-10	60/0	59/0
NI MOH-72	0	76/4
NICOLET IN	12/2	12/2
NICO INC	31/7	32/0
NI IND	6/4	6/4
NORFOLK AFF	12/5	12/5
NORW RESOU	10/0	10/0
NORTHROP	30/1	30/0
NORWIND	50/0	49/6
NORWIND INC	36/3	36/4
NORWIND CORP	42/4	42/8
OAK TMS	1/0	1/0
OCC PETROP	25/7	25/7
OCEAN DRILL	15/0	15/0
ODGEN CORP	28/6	28/6
OH ED CO	18/1	18/1
OHIO NATT	12/4	12/5
OLIN CORP	46/7	46/5
OMNICARE	8/2	8/2
ORION PICT	14/4	14/4
PATHE WEB	17/1	17/2
PAN AM	2/5	2/5
PANHANDLE	23/5	23/5
PARK ELECT	0	18/0
PARKER DRI	4/4	4/4
PARKER HAN	29/5	29/5
PATRYCK PET	4/3	4/3
PAYLESS CSN	26/6	26/7
PC INDUS-9P	0	88/0
PENN CENTR	22/7	23/0
PENNMALT	86/3	86/2
PENNZOIL	74/5	74/4
PEOPLES EN	19/0	18/6
PEPSICO	37/6	37/4
PFIZER	53/3	53/2
PHELPS DOD	38/6	38/6
PHILLIP MOR	95/2	95/0
PHILLIPS PE	18/5	18/6
PILLSBURY	38/1	38/3
PINNACLE V	22/6	22/6
PITN-BOMES	43/2	43/4
PITTSO	15/1	15/2
POLAROID	41/2	41/2
PORLAND GE	20/7	21/3
PRIME CORP	13/1	13/1
PRIME INNS	34/0	34/1
PRIMESTAR	28/0	28/1
PROCTER-GAMB	78/6	79/0
PUGET SP-L	18/7	18/7
PULTE HOME	8/7	8/6
QUAKER OAT	53/0	53/1
QUAKER CORP	19/1	19/1
QUANTUM CH	95/5	95/2
RALS PURIN	78/6	78/7
RANADA INN	10/1	10/0
RANER OIL	5/7	6/0
RATCHEY	42/3	42/4
RAYMARK	4/2	4/2
RAYTHEON	70/3	70/4
REGAL INTL	*11	*12
REYNOLD INC	50/2	50/1
RJR-NABSC	54/0	54/1
ROCKES G-E	17/3	17/4
ROCKWELL	0	9/6
RODA IND	21/1	21/0
RODINS EN	31/7	31/7
ROLLINS IN	17/7	17/6
ROLLINS IN	18/0	18/0
ROMAN CORP	35/4	35/4
ROYAL DUTCH	107/0	109/6
RYDER BERRIE	18/7	18/6
RYDER SYST	24/1	24/2
RYLAND GRP	16/5	16/4
S DIEG G-E	34/1	34/2
SALOMON	25/3	25/3
SARA LEE	42/2	42/1
SC ATLANTA	12/3	12/2
SCOTT PPR	36/2	36/5
SCOTTYS	12/6	13/0
SE BANK CO	55/1	55/1
SEAGRAM CO	0	0
SEAGULL AIR	0	0
SEAL EN	0	0
SEARS ROE	36/7	37/0
SERV CORP	18/4	18/4
SA STH PAC	19/2	19/3
SHRSH HUTT	22/5	22/6
SHELL TRAN	68/2	68/0
SHER PLOU	53/2	53/3
SHINT INT	8/4	8/4
SMITH BEC	48/4	48/2
SNAP ON-TL	34/0	34/0
SOURCE CAP	0	0
SOUTHERN	20/4	20/4
SPAIN FUND	9/6	9/7
SPERRY	11/2	11/1
SQUARE D	48/7	49/1
SQUIBBS	33/5	33/5
STONE CONT	57/6	57/6
SUN CO	49/5	49/5
SUNSTRAND	3/8	3/8
SUNSH INT	23/4	23/4
SUPER VAL	25/6	25/6
SOUTHWEST	16/6	16/6
SU GAS	21/4	21/3
SUN BELL	39/3	39/3
TANCO CORP	42/2	42/2
TOK	70/2	70/2
TECO ENRG	23/1	23/1
TEKTRONIX	21/6	22/2
TELETYPE	330/0	330/0
TELEX CORP	0	0
TERADYNE	15/0	15/0
TESORO PET	11/2	11/2
TEX AMER B	*35	*35
TEX EAS YR	25/4	25/4
YEXACO	45/4	45/4
TEXAS TEL	33/2	33/2
TEXAS INST	40/4	40/4
TEXTRON	25/6	25/6
THOMPS MED	0	0
TIDEMASTER	6/6	6/7
TIGER INT	13/2	13/1
TIMKEN	33/3	33/3
TORCHMARK	31/5	31/6
TOSCO	2/7	3/0
TOYS R US	38/0	37/5
TRANSAMER	39/4	39/3
TRANSCO EN	33/1	33/3
TRANSCO EX	6/2	6/2
TRAVELLERS	34/5	34/4
TRIMITY INC	51/4	51/4
TRUMP	23/2	23/4
TRANSWORLD	35/1	35/2
UAL CORP	91/2	91/1
UTO BRAND	17/3	17/3
UTO TECH	37/7	37/7
UNILEVER	54/1	54/0
UNION CAMP	33/3	33/3
UNION CARB	22/2	22/2
US SINC	26/7	27/2
USK CP	28/0	28/0
US-MEST	55/2	55/1
U	37/0	37/0
VALERO EN	*75	*76
VALLEY INTL	3/4	3/5
VARCO INTL	27/2	27/1
VARIAN ASS	36/2	36/1
V PNT PET	6/5	6/5
WALCO OIL	31/4	31/6
WAL MARY	30/4	30/4
WALGREEN	35/4	35/1
WARNER CORP	70/4	70/2
WASTE MAN	50/4	40/7
WASH GAS L	25/5	25/3
WEST INTL	6/4	6/4
WEST CO	12/4	12/3
WESTINGHOUSE	51/2	51/3
WILLIAMS E	31/2	31/3
WILLIAMS E	0	0
WINTERBAG	9/1	9/1
WINT-DIXIE	43/0	42/8
WOOLWORTH	52/5	52/5
WORLD CORP	0	0
WOLEY	33/6	33/7
WYLE LABS	9/4	9/4
XEROX CORP	54/4	54/2
XTRA INC	0	0
ZAPATA	2/6	2/6
ZATRE CORP	24/3	24/3
ZENITH EL	21/4	21/4
ZERO	14/6	14/6

Dow Jones Plus Indices</			
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BUSINESS

Japanese markets dip

UK stocks, sterling firm slightly

LONDON, Sept. 20, (Reuters): The pound sterling and London shares firmed slightly today on news the British credit boom may be slowing down, but Japanese markets were unsettled by news that Emperor Hirohito was ill.

The dollar and gold were little changed.

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip stocks rose about seven points to 1,768.1 after the Bank of England announced that commercial bank and home lending rose by a smaller-than-expected £5.8 billion (\$9.8 billion) in August.

Earlier, in Tokyo, the 225-share Nikkei Average fell 352.42 points, or 1.26 per cent, to 27,548.58 in reaction to domestic news agencies reports quoting palace officials saying that Emperor Hirohito, 87, was in critical condition.

Treatment

Palace officials said he received emergency treatment, including a blood transfusion, early this morning. He has been emperor for 63 years and is the world's longest reigning monarch.

Paper and printing companies shares rose strongly, however. The emperor's death would require reprinting of calendars and other items bearing details of the current imperial reign.

The yen eased slightly, to about 134 yen to the dollar.

"I feel the reports about the emperor's health condition were used as an excuse for yen selling," said a Japanese dealer based in London.

"But operators may have wanted to move currency markets with any kinds of reports at a time when the markets were in the doldrums," he said.

The pound rose half a cent and a penny to \$1.6840 and 3,1430 West German marks after today's bank lending report, which helped ease concern that inflationary pressures were mounting in Britain.

In much of the rest of the world, worries about inflation have already been fading as oil prices tumbled.

Today, however, Brent crude oil from the North Sea edged about 10 cents a barrel higher to \$13.25 a barrel for October delivery.

Gold, a traditional hedge against inflation, firmed slightly to be fixed in London this morning at \$410.40 an ounce, up \$1.40 from Monday afternoon when it fell to its lowest value in a year and a half.

The dollar was little changed at just below 1.37 West German marks and 134 yen.

Traders said they were watching for a meeting of finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — to be held in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in West Berlin which open on Thursday.

"We won't have a dollar move either way until we see the end of the G-7 meeting. But I don't expect any major change in (policy towards the dollar) in the communiqué," said Andre Tomaszewicz, a senior trader at Citibank in Paris.

Frankfurt, Hong Kong and Paris shares eased. In Sydney, the All-Ordinaries index rose 6.1 points to 1,545.6.

12-nation European Community gears up for 1992

Swiss ponder links with EEC

BERNE, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Is Switzerland's independence becoming a luxury it will soon be unable to afford? The Swiss are beginning to wonder.

As the 12 nations of the European Economic Community gear up for 1992, when 320 million EEC citizens are supposed to enjoy the benefits of a giant free internal market, this Alpine nation of 6.5 million is pondering the cost of remaining outside.

"There is clearly no desire for membership among the Swiss at the moment," Guy-Olivier Second, Mayor of Geneva and a radical member of parliament in Berne, told Reuters.

"But that will change by the end of the century. In the long term, EEC membership is inevitable."

Second is a self-confessed Europhile who acknowledged that his views are not widely shared.

Nevertheless, there is a new willingness among his countrymen to consider the possibility of sacrificing some of their national sovereignty in return for membership.

A poll in April showed popular opinion evenly split for and against membership. In French and Italian-speaking regions of this predominantly German-speaking country, the poll showed a majority of voters in favour.

Swiss bankers and industrialists are anxious that their outsider status may hurt their competitiveness in the post-1992 community, in which people, goods, services and capital will move freely between member states.

"Membership is out of the question for the moment," says Rainer Gut, chairman of Credit Suisse, Switzerland's third largest bank. "But we cannot simply milk the EEC for our own purposes as we have tried to do in the past."

Gut and others favour striking deals with the community and adapting voluntarily to its requirements, but they do not rule out Swiss membership as a future option.

In the meantime, the Swiss have been baying up companies in EEC countries to ensure they get a foot in the internal market.

The most dramatic acquisition was Nestlé's £2.55 billion (\$4.48 billion) takeover of British chocolate manufacturer Rowntree in June.

Membership may look attractive economically, but a Swiss government report published this month pointed out numerous political obstacles.

The Swiss are proud of their neutrality and their unique system of direct democracy, which allows voters to decide virtually any issue in a referendum.

Suspicion

They also have a deep suspicion of strong central government. The main centres of authority in the country are the 26 cantons, which take the lion's share of taxes, while the federal government in Berne has limited resources and powers.

EEC membership would change all that.

Laws emanating from Brussels would take precedence over Swiss laws and voters would lose their right to veto things they do not like in referendums.

Switzerland would be bound by rulings of the European Court and its neutrality would be undermined by the growing co-

ordination of foreign policy among the 12, all of whom except Ireland are members of NATO.

The EEC's commitment to free movement of labour would find little favour in this densely populated country with highly restrictive immigration policies. There would also be difficulties over farm policy and transport — Switzerland is already embroiled in a dispute with the community over its refusal to allow 40-tonne EEC trucks onto its roads. It imposes a weight limit of 28 tonnes.

Option

The government report concluded that the political price of joining would be too high at present.

Instead, it said, Switzerland should continue to negotiate deals with the EEC — there are already over 130, covering everything from frozen vegetables to banking — and harmonise laws and business practices with those of the community.

But it added that membership could become an option in the future, especially if the community developed federal political structures more compatible with the Swiss system of government.

That could be a forlorn hope. "Our position has always been that it is up to any new member to adapt to the community and not to the community to adapt itself for new members," an official of the EEC Commission said.

Community officials say outsiders cannot expect to enjoy the fruits of membership without paying the price.

Nevertheless, Switzerland, the community's second largest trading partner after the United States, believes it is in a strong position to bargain for favourable treatment.

Jebel Ali hopes Gulf peace will lure investors

DUBAI, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Foreign companies are showing new interest in Dubai's Jebel Ali free zone because of the Gulf war ceasefire and investment could rise considerably, zone chairman Sultan Bin Sulayem said today.

"We've been waiting for peace for eight years," he said in an interview. "Investors don't like it when there's shooting going on nearby."

He said a decision by Japan's Sony Corporation to set up a distribution centre for electronic goods and a proposal by another company for a phosphoric acid plant, both made since the August 20 ceasefire, signalled growing confidence in the zone.

Workforce

Businessmen operating there generally rate the zone, the biggest in the Gulf with a workforce of 6,000 mainly from the sub-continent, a success.

But some add that a big investment influx is unlikely until Iran and Iraq, whose peace talks are currently deadlocked, agree on a definitive end to the war.

Sulayem said 60 companies set up in the zone last year and 190 now operated there, about half of them from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) or other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

He said he was seeking more investment from Japan, which has about five companies operating in the zone, and the United States, which has 15.

He added that a US proposal to limit garment imports from the UAE, to which Dubai belongs, was hurting what had been one of the zone's fastest growing sectors.

Nearly 30 garment companies, many of them Indian, have opened factories in the zone in the past two years and the United States is their main market.

US figures show imports of UAE garments were worth \$10 million in the first quarter of this year.

57 countries to take part in Baghdad fair

BAGHDAD, Sept. 20, (OPECNA): Fifty seven countries and nearly 1,400 local Arab and non-Arab companies have so far confirmed their participation in the 25th Baghdad International Fair opening here on Nov. 1.

With the ceasefire in the Gulf conflict in effect since August 20 it is expected that more countries and firms will take part in this jubilee anniversary of the fair.

Progress

Attended by industrial manufacturers from all over the world, the two-week event will help highlight Iraqi progress in industrial, agricultural and technical fields. It will also provide local industrialists and businessmen with an opportunity to acquaint themselves with new technological developments.

New facilities have been offered to the participants at this year's fair with each pavilion allowed to set \$100,000 worth of semi-manufactured goods and \$30,000 worth of consumer materials.

Treasury bills oversubscribed

A NEW batch of Treasury bills launched in the market yesterday has been heavily oversubscribed by a total of 33 bidders, according to a Central Bank statement yesterday.

The new issue, worth KD100 million, attracted offers worth KD236,400 million at the expiry subscription deadline.

Offer prices ranged from 98.587 to 98.411 per cent, providing a yield of 5.668 to 6.373 per cent, compared to the Central Bank's buying rate of 98.532 per cent giving an interest of 5.888 per annum.

Hundreds of tons of cargo lying in Shuwaikh port

Companies drastically cut their fleets

By Jadranka Porter

HUNDREDS of tons of general cargo ordered by Iraq are lying in the Shuwaikh port warehouses in Kuwait as an Iraqi overland transport company is struggling to put together a fleet of trucks to transport the goods to destinations in Iraq.

Only about 40 out of 2,000 trucks registered in Kuwait are currently operating, while the demand for overland transport services is rising rapidly, according to an industrial source.

Trip

The rates for a round trip to Iraq have rocketed from KD100 to KD450, but some operators are wary of transporting goods to Iraq because they feel there are no guarantees that they will be paid.

"The rates are phenomenal

but charging an amount is one thing and being paid is another," said the source.

The trucking business in Kuwait which flourished until 1983 is in disarray with many trucks in disrepair and most companies desperately short of drivers.

In addition, many independent truckers, known on the market as "cowboys," left the country or switched to other jobs when the business slumped.

All companies have drastically reduced their fleets. A Kuwaiti company which used to run 200 trailers now operates 20 trucks.

There are four major fleet operators moving cargo from Kuwait to Iraq. They are Iraq Overland Co., the Kuwait Overland Co., a Bulgarian trucking company and Kuwait's Al Naqeb and Khattar Co.

"We need independent operators back in business," said the source.

The independent operators, all of whom are Arabs, usually Syrians, Palestinians and Lebanese, are known for their efficiency. They speak Arabic and are familiar with customs regulations and can easily find their way around Iraq, the source said.

"They can make a round trip to Baghdad in 48 hours, while the Filipinos and Koreans sometimes take up to two weeks," the source said.

He said the trucking business is plagued by negative cash flow, the lack of manpower and the absence of trust between clients and trucking companies.

The business will take a long time to recover, the source said, because of lengthy residence per-

mit procedures for new drivers.

One thousand eight hundred tons of goods ordered by Iraq, including pipes, timber, steel and machinery arrived in the Shuwaikh port on Sept. 2. It will take 140 trailers to transport the goods to Iraq. Only 20 trailers left Kuwait so far.

Goods

The cost of demurrage due to be settled today is shared between the Iraqi government which ordered the goods and the state-owned Iraqi Overland Co. which was contracted to transport them to the Iraqi cities.

Another vessel carrying 1,800 tons of timber, cables, machinery and refrigerators ordered by Iraq berthed yesterday at the Shuwaikh port, according to shipping agent. The goods could be trapped in the Shuwaikh port for weeks, the source said.

Investment groups hope for upward movement

Karachi equities remain depressed

DESPITE strong rally at the end of the last week, equities on the Karachi remained depressed in response to a combination of adverse factors including uncertainty on the home political front and new situation developing on the western borders, according to a leading daily in Karachi.

It was, however, generally believed that the market had already touched its bottom and had no option but to rise from the current lows alone on technical grounds, with or without general support.

After falling persistently early in the week, reflecting the weakness of the broader market, the Karachi Exchange index recovered some of its initial losses as it was quoted at 1,510 against 1,548 a week earlier.

Downward

The Stock Market during the week has reflected continuous downward tempo in terms of prices, although daily turnover increased slightly.

The slide in shares values and volume can be attributed to the disturbed geo-political situation prevailing on our borders as well as the international disturbances and political uncertainty and lawlessness in educational institutions.

The Stock Market being one of the most sensitive spot of the national economy has been

adversely affected due to this situation and resultant recessionary spell has gripped the stock market, which has made deep erosion in the equity value on a wide front. The severity of the disturbing proportion in share value is further reflected by sizeable slashing in values of all the group of shares without any exception. Recent shock waves will sweep away investors of modest means.

Responsibility

In such a situation it is the responsibility of financial institutions and investment companies to come forward. They are supposed to act as repositories of the savings of general investing public and invest these resources in stock market.

The financial institutions are also supposed to exert their weight in favour of the healthy growth of stock market. It is their moral duty to be a watchdog for maintaining stability in the value of good shares. They should broaden their portfolios as to keep check on activities of professional speculators.

During the week insurance Co., woolen, synthetic, jute, fuel and energy and many other sectors remained very inactive. There was a reasonable turnover in the sector of finance companies but the downward trend is quite apparent.

The textile sector has become

very shaky as the spinning and weaving both are not getting proper response in local and foreign market.

Furthermore the new textile projects seem to be a sign of danger of over-supply in the market.

The confident scripts of sugar also met with disheartening situation. There was a sharp decline in Baba Farid, Noon, Dewan, Sindbadgar and Pangri Sugar. Cement sector remained steady. Auto and allied engineering was full of anxiety.

Announcement of Millat Tractor energised the market a little bit. Market is also expecting good announcement of Pak Suzuki. Both the scripts fluctuated upward and downward very actively. Chemical and Pharmaceutical front participated well. The pleasant announcement of Glaxo was the wave of joy to the market.

Lull

The index touched 1505 which was 1548 on Thursday of last week. The jobbers and short term traders seem to be very shy. Floor brokers are of the opinion that on every day buying interests is there, but the consistency in the buying has disappeared.

Lull was also found in Foreign Exchange Bearer Certificates. Hardly 20 paisas fluctuation was seen in price of Foreign Exchange Bearer Certificates.

National Motors, Ravi

Rayon, PECO, PNSC could not speak for whole week. ICI remained not only steady but proved a little stronger against the sentiment of market. Thanks to bulls for reasonable support.

The Lahore stock market showed a bearish trend throughout the last week, which pushed prices of blue chips lower despite presence of support.

Long position holders stayed away and were not ready to sell their stocks for fractional gains. They were weighed down by the outside factors at the top of which was the unclear political atmosphere.

Transactions

Few bouts of share transactions in textile and investment groups raised hopes for an upward movement but as the occasional bullish activity lacked real support from other market forces, the upward wave could not be sustained longer.

Foreign exchange bearer certificates also declined as did most of the other blue chips with a little hope of recovery.

The market experts believe that political uncertainty and income tax problems were the main inhibiting factors. An early start of negotiations between the representatives bodies of the business community and the government could ease the situation and generate interest in the share business, they added.

Federation denounces anti-Iraq campaign

AMMAN, Sept. 20, (KUNA): The Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture today strongly denounced the Zionist-inspired hostile Western campaign against Iraq and expressed support for Iraq's fight for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The US Senate's "misleading allegations" that Iraq had poison-gassed its Kurdish minority rebels were "incited and timed by the Zionist lobby," said the federation in a statement signed by its Secretary-General

Burhan Al Dajani. Arab businessmen represented in the federation are watching the malicious anti-Iraqi campaign with concern. They strongly denounce its goal of scuttling peace efforts in the Gulf region, the statement said.

Divert

It added that the slanderous campaign was also basically intended to divert the world's attention from Israeli brutalities against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

State to operate oil pipeline in Ecuador

QUITO, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Ecuador's government, which jointly operates the country's main oil pipeline with Texaco, will take complete control of the facility beginning next month, Information Minister Gonzalo Ortiz said yesterday.

Ortiz told foreign reporters Energy Minister Diego Tamariz would announce the measure during a congressional hearing later today.

Ortiz said the government, which relies on oil for two thirds of export income, would in the

next few days give one year's notice to Texaco before the Ecuadorian State Oil Corp (CEPE) becomes the sole operator of the pipeline on October 1.

A consortium 37.5 per cent owned by Texaco and 62.5 per cent by CEPE now operates the trans-Ecuadorian pipeline. Ortiz, who took office under the new Social Democrat government of President Rodrigo Borja on August 10, said the measure would give the state more say in oil transport and the state would no longer have to pay operating costs to Texaco.

The pipeline, which transports crude oil to refineries on the north-western coast, was shattered by an earthquake in March last year and oil exports were suspended for five months.

Asked whether the government would respect debts to Texaco, which a local company source said recently stood at more than \$30 million, Ortiz said the government would analyse its debts to Texaco and Texaco's debts to the government and pay "legitimate" debts to Texaco.

Frank Redfield, acting head of Texaco in Ecuador, told Reuters he had no comment on the measures and Mauricio Perez, head of the Texaco's public relations in Quito, said the company had not been informed officially of the government's decision.

Commonwealth ministers to discuss new ways to ease world debt crisis

LIMASSOL, Cyprus, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Commonwealth finance ministers, worried by a slowdown in lending to developing nations, gathered today to discuss new ways to ease the world debt crisis ahead of the annual IMF/World Bank meeting.

The 49-nation group, whose poorer members Jamaica and Bangladesh have been devastated in past weeks by hurricane and floods, will discuss a new scheme to boost the flow of private investment to the Commonwealth's developing nations.

Sir Peter Marshall, deputy secretary-general for economic affairs, told reporters: "We meet in the shadow of the disaster in Bangladesh and of the hurricane which struck Jamaica and the Cayman Islands."

Fund

But the spotlight at the two-day formal meeting starting tomorrow will be on a report by the Commonwealth secretariat

proposing a special fund to channel private investment into financial markets of the group's poorer nations.

The report, commissioned by ministers at their meeting a year ago in Barbados, paints a bleak picture for debt-ridden developing nations, with new commercial bank lending all but drying up and private capital flows declining sharply.

The Commonwealth's economic experts believe their soundings of major institutional investors and banks suggest the proposed "Commonwealth equity fund" could boost the flow of cash — provided governments remove legal and tax barriers.

Ministers are expected to order the start of detailed work to create fund of up to \$100 million, but delegates said it was not clear when it could be launched.

Earlier this week, the World Bank's annual report highlighted the continued plight of

developing nations, with the burden of global debt payments outweighing the "inflow" of new funds.

Third World debt now totals an estimated \$1.2 trillion, double the level at the start of the international crisis triggered by Mexico's repayments problems in 1982.

The decline in new lending has added extra importance to schemes to mobilise private capital and encourage foreign investment in debtor countries' stock markets.

Commonwealth Finance Ministers traditionally gather ahead of the annual International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meetings, being held this year in West Berlin from the end of the week.

Ministers in Cyprus are expected to express concern at the recent rise in world interest rates and call for urgent capital increases for the IMF and World Bank to help boost their lending, delegates said.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

The Tenders summarized below are invited by the Central Tenders Committee on behalf of Government Ministries and other concerned authorities. The relevant documents may be obtained from the office of the Central Tenders Committee during office hours against a payment of non-refundable fees as shown therein. Unless otherwise stipulated all relevant offers shall remain valid for a period of 90 days with effect from the closing date.

Tender No. MD/MZ/8-88/1889
Tender's Internal No. 145/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Defence
Requirements: Supply of various textiles
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 30.10.88

Tender No. PTT/87/88/788
Tender's Internal No. 147/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Communications and Transport
Requirements: Supply, installation, operation & maintenance of Telex Exchange
Relevant Fee: KD 100/-
Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12 noon, Sunday, 20.11.88

Tender No. 155/78
Tender's Internal No. 135/88
Concerned Party: Kuwait National Petroleum Co.
Requirements: Supply of seamless pipes
Relevant Fee: KD 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 1-1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 30.10.88

Tender No. MT/M/1/88
Tender's Internal No. 148/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Public Health
Requirements: Laundry services of linens
Relevant Fee: KD 100/-
Initial Guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 1.11.88

Qualified Tenderers:
1. General Trading Co.
2. United Shipping, Trdg. & Contg. Services Co.
3. Al Qasr Gen. Trdg. & Contg. Co.
4. Al Nufi Cleaning Co.

5. Steam Cleaning Centre Co.
6. Al Ahieh Circle Cleaning Co.
7. Kuwait Pricard Maintenance & Cleaning Co.
8. Al Ahmadi Laundry Station Co.
9. Wael Al Nufi & Partners Trdg. Co.
10. Al Sanea Chemical Products Co.
11. Al Sharg Laundry
Tender No. RE/168
Tender's Internal No. 144/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Public Works
Requirements: Construction of roads, storm water sewers & other services at 2nd Ring Road Cross with Fath & Al Arabi Streets.
Relevant Fee: KD 150/-
Initial Guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 18.10.88

Qualified Tenderers:
1. Al Mansour & Al Abadally Trdg. & Contg. Co.
2. Kuwaiti Burhan Co.
3. Mohd Abdul Mohsen Al Khoraifi
4. Al Masoud Al Saleh & Sons
5. General Synthesis Trdg. Co. Ltd.
6. Buildings & Roads Co. (Barco)
7. United Arab Contractors (Uzaco)

8. Copri Construction Projects Co.
9. Al Ahmadiyah Trdg. & Contg. Co.
10. Al Masoud Trdg. & Contg. Co.
11. United Gulf Construction Co.
12. Combined Group Trdg. & Contg. Co.

Tender No. HMA/M/87/26
Tender's Internal No. 138/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Public Works
Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of Mosque Model No. 20 at Khaitan Southern Expansion — Plot No. 3.
Relevant Fee: KD 250/-
Initial Guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, 18.10.88

Qualified Tenderers:
1. Dar Al Bina Engineering & Contg. Co.
2. Burgan Contg. Co.
3. Copri Construction Projects Co.
4. Al Khoraifi Construction Co.
5. United Gulf Construction Co.
6. United Gulf Construction Co.
7. Al Buzian Engineering & Contg. Co.

8. Al Khamees & Al Iryan Trdg. & Contg. Co.
9. Al Ruwaisat Contg. Co.
10. United Arab Contractors Co.

(Uzaco)
Tender No. HMA/M/87/23
Tender's Internal No. 139/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Public Works
Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of Clinic Model 12 (modified) at Farwaniya
Relevant Fee: KD 150/-
Initial Guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 Noon, Sunday, 16.10.88

Qualified Tenderers:
1. Al Roomi Trdg. & Contg. Co.
2. Al Othman Trdg. & Contg. Co.
3. United Construction Co.
4. Al Hama Kuwait Co.
5. Khalifa Duali Al Dabous, Bros & Partners Co. Ltd.
6. Jifran Trdg. & Contg. Co.
7. Al Adasani Contg. Est.

8. Al Beidani Trdg. & Contg. Co.
9. Munawar & Sons Gen. Trdg. & Contg. Co.
10. Al Ahieh Group Contg. Co.
11. Tala Al Ghanim & Partner Trdg. & Contg. Co.

Tender No. M/1988/39
Tender's Internal No. 150/88
Concerned Party: Kuwait Oil Company
Requirements: Supply of photocopy machines
Relevant Fee: KD 30/-
Initial Guarantee: 2 1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, 23.10.88



Cause and effect: Thousands of rain forests are felled every year to provide farmland or wood for industry. Monsoon rains carry off topsoil exposed by tree-fellings, clogging rivers and causing floods.



The victims: Bangladeshi women wade through chest-high floodwaters to fetch fresh drinking water from the nearest water pump. Many have been bitten by poisonous snakes.

Deforestation, the root of destruction

Floods: not an act of God, but a man-made disaster

By Max Prangnell,
Cal McCrystal,
Hege Duckert

GRATEFUL Bangladeshi officials were offering heartfelt congratulations to crews of the first relief planes to risk landing in Dhaka, their flooded capital last week. But it is a short-term celebration.

If the touchdown provides minor local satisfaction in the midst of the calamity of hundreds of thousands drowned, millions homeless and disease beginning to rage across a land 80 per cent under water, the rest of the world has less reason to celebrate.

For Bangladesh's tragedy, coming so soon after last month's inundation of Sudan, is infinitely more than a reminder of how man can engineer his own demise; it is seen by a swelling body of scientific opinion as a grim precursor of a world-wide disaster of immeasurable proportions.

The apocalypse, wiping out millions of species of plant and animal life through global ecological disturbance, has its roots, scientists claim, in the wholesale destruction of virgin forest, especially in the Himalayas, in the African jungle and in the rain forests of the Amazon.

As a result, Michael Robinson of Washington's Smithsonian Institution, chillingly asserts: "We are facing the first human created extinction cycle that is on the same scale as the

Alpine forests, like those that once clothed the Himalayas, control the flow of water to the plains and prevent soil erosion.

The Himalayas are a vast water machine, feeding the three great rivers of the Indian subcontinent, the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, to water vast stretches of northern India, much of Pakistan, Burma and Bangladesh.

Ignorance

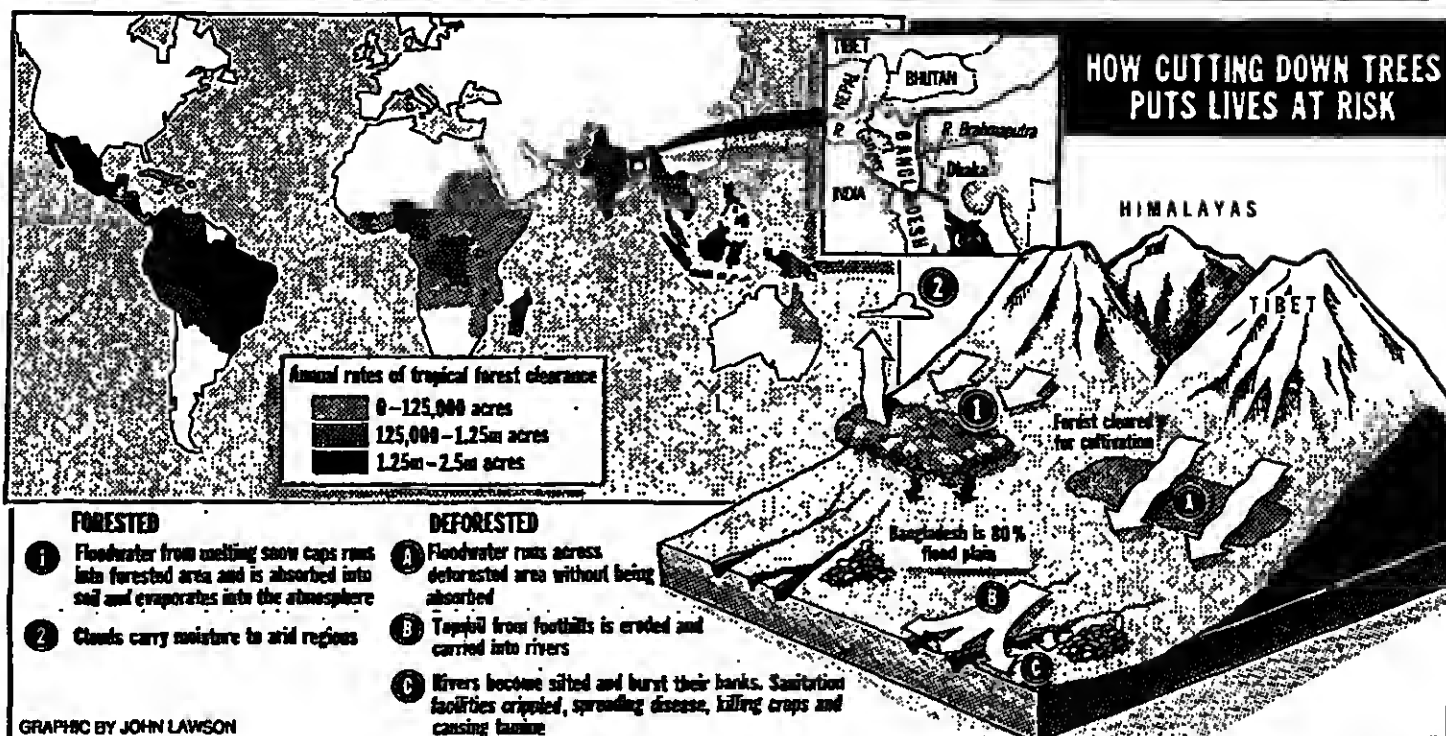
However, a combination of human ignorance, greed, poverty and inertia has thrown the machine out of control. Growing populations with an increasing need for food and livelihood are stripping the forests from the habitable areas on the southern slopes, increasing the frequency and devastating power of the floods this activity unleashes.

The destruction of the world's rain forests has been aggravated, environmentalists believe, by "short-sighted" aid projects, funded by organisations such as the World Bank, whose main aim has been, not to look after the ecology of the world's poorer countries, but to drag their economies into line with more advanced states by clearing forests to produce cash crops.

When Sir Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide conquered Mount Everest in 1953, the steep sides of its Khumbu

Bangladesh's tragedy is man-made. It is seen by a growing body of scientific opinion to be the natural outcome of the massive deforestation of the Himalayas in the last 50 years. From Pakistan to India, Nepal and Tibet, deforestation has eroded

fertile topsoil from the hills, triggering landslides and clogging rivers and reservoirs with so much silt that they overflow when they reach the plain of the Ganges river 100 miles below Everest.



peared, and the climatic effects will threaten to turn the fertile plain into a new Sahel, the drought-stricken region in central Africa.

Population

In Nepal alone, where the population is expected to double to 30 million by the year 2000, an average of 120,000 acres of forest are cleared every year (only 17,000 acres are replanted). Most of the trees are used for firewood; the rest are demolished to make room for crops and livestock.

The Sherpas who guided Hillary and used to manage the forests, harvesting only dead or fallen trees, now treat them as a source of wealth, selling bundles of firewood to campers and mountaineers.

According to Indian government figures, more than 3 million acres of forest land are being lost every year. Annual flood losses in India are 14 times what they were in the 1950s. Environmental groups blame the government for failing to deal with the deforestation while throwing \$250m a year into inadequate curbs and flood compensation.

Five years ago, the Indian Environment Ministry recommended a moratorium on the

felling of Himalayan trees. It has not been put into effect. Commercial interests have devastated Indian forests to the point where barely 10 per cent of the original forest remains.

Three decades ago, floods afflicted 62 million acres annually in India. Today they cause catastrophes over 100 million acres. Since 1960, the high water mark at Dibrugarh on the Brahmaputra in north-east Assam has never been below the danger level.

Last week, Nalioi Jayal, leading Indian environmentalist, said: "We need a proper land-use policy, yet the land-use board has not even bothered to meet for years. We are facing ecological disaster. These floods are a clear sign."

The signs are equally clear across the globe. Floods, increasing more rapidly than any other type of disaster, affected 52 million people a year in the 1960s and 154 million a year in the 1970s. The 1980s (30 million affected in 1984 alone, and this year's count still incomplete) will present a far bleaker picture.

Before Bangladesh will have recovered its dead from the mire, an annual ritual will take place on the opposite side of the globe next month, which will

further increase environmentalists' despair.

In Brazil, peasants will greet the onset of the dry season by putting the torch to rainforests. Clearing land for cultivation and ranching they will, by the next rainy season in January, have burnt almost 10 million acres of forest.

Ripped

Tracts the size of counties are being ripped up daily and converted to corn fields or cattle ranches to satisfy the Western world's demand for cheap hamburger meat.

At the same time, forest clearance has led to the silting of lakes used to flush out the Panama Canal. If the silting continues on this scale, the Panama Canal will be unusable within a few decades.

In Sarawak, west Malaysia, peasant farmers and industrial logging companies will have cleared, a rain forest the size of Wales. In Zaire, central Africa, logging companies such as the West German Danzer Group, are ripping out vast expanses of jungle to supply such commodities as teak coffins and mahogany kitchen units.

According to recent studies, 100 acres of rain forest disappear every minute.

Sticking with this status quo is considered by many environmentalists to be the "worst case scenario".

In the past 50 years, rapid population growth has sent hordes of would-be farmers into wooded mountains and humid rain forests. On the high slopes, monsoon rains carry away soil exposed by tree-felling; in the jungle clearings, the land loses its fertility after a couple of sowings, and the farmers move on with their machetes and torches.

In the Rondonia region of Brazil, the construction of an interstate highway in the early 1980s was designed to provide an artery through the jungle, allowing peasant farmers to take their produce to the rich cities of Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia. The World Bank donated \$400 million to fund the road. Landless peasants were told they could cultivate roadside strips of up to 100 acres.

They tore out stretches of rain forest to plant melons and corn. Within two years, the soil was dead, because in tropical climates most nutrients are stored in vegetation, not in the soil. Inevitably, the farmers moved on, destroying in the process 11 per cent of Rondonia's forest region.

After agriculture, logging is probably the most serious threat. Each year about 10 million acres are converted to firewood or charcoal (70 per cent of the developing world depends on wood for fuel), building materials, fencing, furniture and household implements. Cattle ranching is responsible for wiping out millions of acres more; because it takes 55sq. ft. to produce enough grazing for a single beefburger, at least 260 acres of rain forest disappear every day.

Faced with an environmental outcry, Burger King, the America-based fast-food chain, told its suppliers to stop buying meat from Central America last year.

Optimism

This has not reduced concern for the Panama Canal, however. Each time a ship passes through the 50-mile-long waterway, 52 million gallons of fresh water must be pumped into the locks — the highest is 85ft above sea level — and then flushed out to sea. For years the source of that water seemed inexhaustible, coming from two dam-created lakes.

But because the dense tropical rain forest that blanketed the 1,300 square-mile watershed around the canal's route has been disappearing at an alarming rate (more than 70 per cent has been cut away by

At the present rate of cutting, the Himalayas will be bald in 25 years, topsoil will have disappeared and the climatic effects will threaten to turn the fertile plain into a new Sahel, the drought-stricken region in Central Africa.

farmers), rainfall has been washing soil into the lakes, reducing their storage capacity by 5 per cent. By 2020, the reduction will be 20 per cent.

There are chinks of optimism, however. One is a growing realisation that deforestation does not make even short-term economic sense. For example, Brazil could acquire nearly four tonnes of foreign beef for the subsidies it pays to produce one.

Also, pressured by conservationists, the International Trade and Timber Organisation is to consider at its November

conference whether to impose a levy on importers of tropical hardwood products and direct the profits to reforestation schemes.

Some retailers have already taken the lead. Habitat, the British high-street furniture chain, is banning the sale of all rain forest products from its outlets.

The World Bank is also coming under fire. At its annual meeting in Berlin this month, lobby groups will try to force the bank to step up its concern for the environment. Last year protesters forced the bank to increase its environmental staff from two full-time officers to 60.

Another chink is a scheme known as "debt-for-nature", where conservation-conscious organisations in the developed nations buy off the foreign debts of Third World countries in return for guarantees that forests will be protected.

Conservation International, a Washington group, struck the first of these deals last year by buying \$650,000 of Bolivia's \$4 billion external debt at a discounted price of \$100,000 from banks eager to dump the mostly uncollectable loans.

In exchange, Bolivia agreed to set aside 3.7 million acres of Amazon River country around the existing Beni Biosphere Reserve, home to endangered species of cats and monkeys.

Costa Rica is financing its Guanacaste National Park with a similar deal, and Ecuador recently announced

that it, too, was seeking foreign benefactors.

Whether such guarantees will be observed is another matter. Recently, several Bolivian former cabinet ministers were accused of helping to export 100,000 skins of rare pigs to Europe.

If community leaders do not set an example, it will be hard to widen the chinks of optimism.

As Bangladesh assesses its misfortune, a worried environmentalist lamented last week: "Peasants don't listen to biology lectures."

Courtesy: Sunday Times



A soldier distributes food to the flood victims at a relief camp near Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Frightening scenario by year 2000

BANGLADESH'S tragedy is, in bald terms, the thin end of the deforestation wedge.

Scientists say the thick end is the potential destruction of the world's entire ecological balance, affecting everything from the air we breathe to the food we eat.

The human race is currently destroying an area of rain forest the size of 200 football pitches every minute. About 50 per cent of the world's rain forest has already been removed this century. If current destruction rates continue, a further 15 per cent will be destroyed by the year 2000.

There are four main side-effects.

● **Flooding.** As a result of soil erosion by wind and rain, water from melting snow caps or monsoons is not absorbed into the earth. This should happen through the roots of trees, which also bond topsoils together.

If the trees were not destroyed, the water would later be

drawn up through their branches and released through the leaves as moisture, forming clouds.

In areas of deforestation the rain simply washes away the topsoil.

● **Global warming.** This is where gases created by the burning of timber form a layer of carbon dioxide around the planet, trapping heat and raising the atmosphere temperature.

This has already raised the

earth's average temperature by 0.5C in the past 90 years. If the current destruction rate continues, the temperature will rise by a further 5C, melting the polar ice cap and raising the world's sea level by anything up to 60 metres. This would be enough to obliterate many cities, including London.

● **Extinction of plant and animal species.** Some environmentalists claim that at least one plant or animal species becomes extinct every half

hour. Others say that, of the 5m-10m species of organisms inhabiting the earth, 1m could die out in the next 10 years.

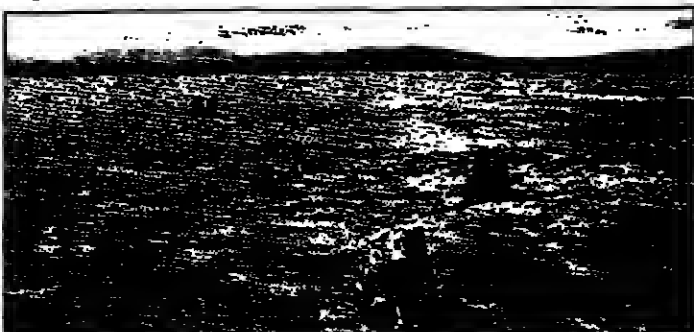
This is all the more worrying because of the knock-on effects. Tropical forests are the main dispensary of raw materials for medicines. One recent study, for instance, showed that 70 per cent of the 3,000 plants identified by the US National Cancer Institute as having anti-cancer properties come from rain forests.

● **Destruction of primitive tribes.** In the Carajas region of the Amazon jungle, an area of rain forest the size of England and France combined was cleared in 1982 to make way for a \$600m iron ore mining project.

The removal of essential sources of food and shelter forced the last nomadic tribe in South America, the Guajás, to the brink of extinction. Two other tribes, the Parakana and the Xikrin, now exist only in photographs and the slums of Rio de Janeiro.



Flood victims wade through waist-deep water trying to reach relief camps.



According to recent studies 100 acres of rain forest disappear every minute.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

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1 or 2 bedroom flat furnished or semi-furnished required anywhere in Kuwait, preferably in Farwaniya with tele. Tel. 4813141, 8 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 7 pm.
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SALMIYA: one room required for two bachelors to share, preferably, with an Indian family. Tel. Mr. Iqbal, 5749267, 8 am - 1 pm, 4-9 pm.
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Available

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind Al Firdous Cinema. Rooms with kitchen and bathroom for families or working girls only. Contact the "Salon Goraya," Villa No. 142. Tel. Mohammad, 2404265.
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SALMIYA, near the Indian/Pakistani schools. Accommodation for a bachelor (non-smoker). Tel. 5610865, 2 - 6.30 pm.
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SHARQ, fully furnished room in a CAC flat for 1 or 2 bachelors to share with a family. Rent KD90. Tel. Mr. Maqbool Ahmed, 4714398, 9 am - 5 pm, Mohammad, 2469431 after 6 pm.
(AT5-44032-3)

For Rent

SALWA, 2 bedroom chalet, fully equipped with tele, for two months from 1st October. Tel. 5612656.
(AT3-43984-3)

BAYAN, luxurious villa: 2 floors, 5 bedrooms, CAC, with large garden, in good location for diplomats or executives. Rent KD 850 (furnished) KD750 (unfurnished). Tel. 2541866, 2564814, 2515584 after 4 pm.
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MITSUBISHI Galant Sapporo (sports) '82 model, beige colour, in excellent condition for sale immediately. Tel. Mr. Ibrahim, 2402876, 8 am - 9 pm.
(AT3-43986-3)

MAZDA 929 sport 1985, fully electronic, cruise control, KD1300. Cash, contact personally Al Muthanna, Block 2, Floor, 5, Flat 513. Tel. 2426377, 10-11 am.
(AT5-44006-3)

ISUZU 1980 model, automatic, in excellent condition. KD 350. Tel. Mr. Iqbal Samani, 2416106, 2411639.
(AT4-IS-TM-3)

DODGE Chrysler 1981, model, white, with AC, automatic registered up to May '89 in very good condition. KD 475 ono. Tel. 5642678, any time, including Friday.
(AT5-44019-3)

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(AT3-43982-3)

NISSAN Sunny 83 model, automatic, AC, 4 doors, sunroof, in very good condition. KD 500 cash. Tel. 4740351, 1 - 4 pm, after 9 pm.
(AT3-43992-3)

MERCEDES 450 SEL '79, fully automatic, new stereo, lady driven, carefully maintained. Best offer KD 950. Tel. Stanley, 4837623, 8 am - 1 pm and 4-7 pm.
(AT5-44004-3)

ISUZU Trooper 1982, with AC, manual, silver colour, 120,000 kms. in good condition. KD800. Tel. David Taylor, 5330690, (home), after 3 pm.
(AT5-44011-3)

CHEVROLET Malibu 1981, with AC, automatic, two doors, white, in good running condition. Best offer. Tel. 4887482, 8 am - 8 pm.
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HOUSEHOLD items: AC, dining table with chairs, sewing machine, Almirahs and Philips tuner for sale immediately. Tel. Mr. Mustaq, 5615571, 5.30 - 8.30 pm.
(AT5-43988-3)

HOUSEHOLD items: AC, dining table with chairs, sewing machine, Almirahs and Philips tuner for sale immediately. Tel. Mr. Mustaq, 5615571, 5.30 - 8.30 pm.
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FREEZER Hotpoint 17 cu. ft. German made bedroom set, Ariston gas cooker with six burners and oven, Hoover automatic washing machine and glass fitted cupboard for saloon. Tel. 4815446, 8 am - 12 noon, 2653894, evenings.
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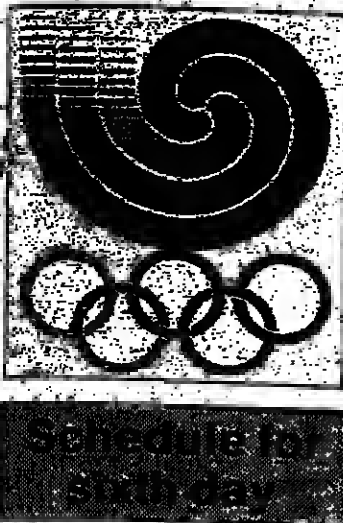
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SEOUL, Sept. 20. (Reuters): Timetable for the start of the Olympics on Thursday.

Baseball, women's preliminary round: 2345 (Wednesday) Yugoslavia v United States; 0145 Soviet Union v South Korea; 0930 Bulgaria v Australia; 1130 Czechoslovakia v China.

Boxing: 2400 (Wednesday) and 0900 preliminary round.

Cycling: 2400 (Wednesday) men's sprint, 1/8 final; women's sprint, 1/8 final; Men's 4,000 metres individual pursuit, semifinals; Men's individual points race, qualifying; 0700 Men's sprint, quarterfinals; Women's sprint, quarterfinals; Men's 4,000 metres individual pursuit final.

Equestrian: 0330 three-day event, showjumping.

Fencing: 2230 (Wednesday) men's individual foil, direct elimination; 1000 Women's individual foil final.

Football: 0700 South Korea v Argentina, Group C; 0900 Soviet Union v U.S., Group C; 0900 Yugoslavia v Brazil, Group D; 0900 Australia v Nigeria, Group D.

Gymnastics: 0200 Men's individual all-round competition final.

Handball, men's preliminary round: 2400 (Wednesday) U.S. v Yugoslavia; 0130 Czechoslovakia v Hungary; 0400 Soviet Union v Sweden; 0530 South Korea v East Germany; 0800 Algeria v Iceland; 0930 Japan v Spain.

Hockey, men's preliminary round: 2300 (Wednesday) Pakistan v Argentina; 0045 South Korea v India; 0330 Kenya v Spain; 0330 Soviet Union v Canada; 0515 Australia v Netherlands; 0515 Britain v West Germany.

Modern pentathlon: 2400 (Wednesday) cross-country, final event.

Rowing, semifinals: 2300 (Wednesday) men's coxed fours; 2320 (Wednesday) men's double sculls; 2350 (Wednesday) men's coxless pairs; 0010 men's single sculls; 0400 Women's single sculls; 0420 Men's coxed pairs; 0450 Men's coxless fours; 0510 Men's quadruple sculls.

Shooting: 2300 (Wednesday) men's rapid fire pistol, first round (30 shots); 2300 (Wednesday) men's free small-bore rifle, three positions (3x40 shots); 2300 (Wednesday) men's training target, first round (30 shots); 2300 (Wednesday) open clay target-shoot, first round (75 targets); 0530 Men's free small-bore rifle final, three positions (10 shots).

Swimming, freestyle: 2300 (Wednesday) women's 400 metres freestyle; men's 100 metres freestyle; Women's 200 metres backstroke; men's 200 metres backstroke; women's 4x100 metres freestyle relay.

Finals: 1000 Women's 400 metres freestyle; Men's 100 metres freestyle; Women's 100 metres backstroke; Men's 200 metres backstroke; Women's 4x100 metres freestyle final.

Water polo, preliminary round: 2300 (Wednesday) Greece v China, Group B; 0015 Spain v U.S., Group B; 0130 Hungary v Yugoslavia, Group B; 0400 South Korea v Italy, Group A; 0515 West Germany v France, Group A; 0630 Australia v Soviet Union, Group A.

Tennis: 0100 Men's singles, second round (16 matches); Women's singles, first round (eight matches).

Volleyball, men's preliminary round: 2345 (Wednesday) U.S. v Argentina; 0200 Brazil v Bulgaria; 0430 Italy v Sweden; 0630 Soviet Union v South Korea; 0830 Japan v France; 1030 Tunisia v Netherlands.

BILOZERCHEV LEADS SOVIETS TO TEAM GYMNASTICS GOLD

Louganis retains springboard diving title

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept. 20. (AP): Greg Louganis, a wounded and aging king of diving, bounced back from near disaster to retain his Olympic crown in the springboard event today, while a Soviet gymnast crowned his courageous comeback with golden perfection.

The 28-year-old Louganis, five stitches in his head from a brush with the board yesterday, showed all the poise and technical skill of an old master in holding off challenges from two determined Chinese aces and gaining the second gold medal of the Seoul Games for the United States.

Three years after almost losing his left leg in a car crash, Dmitri Bilozherchev, the 21-year-old world champion, scored three perfect 10s to lead the Soviet men's gymnastics team to the gold medal over East Germany and Japan today.

Raised Victories in gymnastics, cycling, men's trap shooting and Greco-Roman wrestling raised the Soviets' gold medal haul at the Summer Games to six and put them in the lead of Seoul medals derby with 11 overall. China had seven, Bulgaria six and the United States five.

The fourth day of the Seoul games also saw a Turkish weightlifter set three world records, East Bloc swimmers shatter Olympic marks and tennis' return as a medal sport for the first time since the 1924 Paris Games.

Mastering the move that cost him so much pain yesterday, Louganis built up a commanding lead to finish the springboard

competition with 730.80 points and to ring up the second American gold of the Games. China's Tan Liangde, who also won the silver at Los Angeles in 1984, had 704.88, and his teammate Li Deliang took the bronze with 665.28.

Bilozherchev, who has a steel bar implanted in his mended leg, scored 10s on the pommel horse, rings and parallel bars.

Showing expected power and technical skill, Bilozherchev and his team-mates scored at least one 10 in five of six optional exercises, missing only in the vault. Their 593.350 was the highest combined team point total ever collected at an Olympics. The previous record of 591.400 was scored by the US team at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, which the Soviets boycotted. Today, the Americans finished 11th out of 12 teams.

East Germany won the silver medal and Japan the bronze, thanks to two perfect 10s in the Japanese team's final exercise, the pommel horse.

In 60-kilo weightlifting competition, Naim Suleymanoglu, an ethnic Turk who defected from Bulgaria in 1986, bettered his own world marks in the snatch with 152.5 kilos, the clean and jerk with 190 kilos and the overall total with 342.5 kilos to earn Turkey's first gold of the Games. Stefan Popov of Bulgaria won silver and Ye Huanming of China the bronze.

Vincenzo Maenza — like Louganis a defending champion — won Italy's first Seoul gold in the 48-kilo class of Greco-Roman wrestling.



Louganis waves to the crowd after getting the gold medal. (Reuters wirephoto)

In swimming competition today, Hungary's Tamas Darnyi demonstrated anew that he was the man to beat in tomorrow's final of the 400-metre individual

medley as he set an Olympic record of 4 minutes, 16.55 seconds in a qualifying heat. Darnyi, the world record holder at 4:15.42, eclipsed the

previous Olympic mark of 4:17.41 by Alex Baumann of Canada in 1984.

A new Olympic mark was only minutes old when it was cracked by Silke Hoerner of East Germany, who was timed at 2 minutes, 27.63 seconds in a women's 200-metre breaststroke qualifying heat.

In the previous heat, Soviet swimmer Yulia Bogacheva's 2:28.94 had bettered the old record of 2:29.54 set in 1980 by Lina Kachushita of the Soviet Union.

The world record is 2:27.27 by Allison Higson of Canada, set earlier this year. Higson qualified for tomorrow's final in 2:29.67.

Britain's Andy Jameson had the fastest time in qualifying heats for the final in the men's 100-metre butterfly. Jameson, the European champion in the 100 butterfly last year, won his heat in 53.34.

America's Matt Biondi, his sights set on seven medals, had the second fastest time overall as he edged out defending Olympic champion Michael Gross of West Germany in another heat.

On the shooting range, all eight finalists broke the Olympic record in the men's air rifle event, which was won by Goran Maksimovic of Yugoslavia, a 25-year-old student who likes to hunt. Maksimovic, who gave Yugoslavia its first gold medal of the Games, scored 695.6. Nicolas Berthelot of France won silver and Johann Reiderer of West Germany bronze.

Soviet Army Sgt. Dmitri Monakov, the 25-year-old world champion, earned the Soviets their third gold medal of the

Games in the men's trap shooting competition. But it took a sudden-death shootout against Miloslav Bednarik of Czechoslovakia to do it. Bednarik, who had tied Monakov with 222 points after the final round, had to settle for the silver medal when he missed on the seventh target of the shootout. Frans Peeters of Belgium took the bronze medal.

Kamander Madjidov added a fourth Soviet gold by defeating Bulgarian Jivko Vangelov 6-2 for the 62-kilo title in Greco-Roman wrestling. Vangelov took silver, and South Korea's An Dae-Hyun won the bronze by defeating Jeno Bodi of Hungary. Italy's Maenza defeated Poland's Andrzej Glah 3-0 in winning the 48-kilo final. Glah settled for silver, and Bratan Tzenov of Bulgaria wrestled the bronze away from Maguaidin Allakhverdiyev of the Soviet Union.

Pinned Bulgaria's third gold winner was 98-kilo wrestler Atanas Komchev, who defeated Harri Koskela of Finland 4-0. The Finn earned silver, and Vladimir Popov of the Soviet Union pinned Christer Gullden of Sweden in 1:24 to win the bronze.

The Soviet Union again confirmed their status as boxing favourites for a clutch of medals with the fastest win of the tournament to date.

Middleweight Ruslan Tarmov, European bronze medalist last year, knocked out Samuel Simbo of Sierra Leone in the first minute of the opening round with almost his first serious punch of the bout.

OLYMPIC NOTEBOOK

Row settled

ARAB countries at the Olympics settled a row with organisers yesterday over the identification of Jerusalem as Israel's capital at the opening ceremony. Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad of Kuwait, the Arab Sport Confederation vice-president, said the president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC) Park Seh-jik told a meeting of the group that the designation had been an unintentional error.

Said Aouita

SAID AOUITA of Morocco said yesterday he was "seriously considering" defending his 5,000 metres title as well as competing in the 800 metres and 1,500 metres at the Olympic Games. No one in Olympic history has ever won those three titles in the same games and the schedule makes it unlikely that anyone would attempt to do it here.

Danish yachtsman

PAUL ELVSTROM, the "Great Dane," of yachting, has given up a chance of winning a fifth Olympic gold medal to be with his family. The 60-year-old Danish yachtsman has opted out of the single-handed events in which he won four consecutive golds from 1948 to 1960 so that he can race in the two-person tornado class with his daughter Trine.

World champion

WORLD high jump champion Patrik Sjoberg said yesterday he was fully fit for the Olympic Games after an injury disrupted season and hinted he might attempt to reclaim his world record in Seoul.

Nervous support

WHEN Ben Johnson positions his muscular frame in the starting blocks and goes for Olympic 100 metres gold this week, the woman he has dedicated the race may be too nervous to watch. Johnson's mother Gloria will be at the Olympic stadium but she has a habit of closing her eyes and saying a quick prayer when her son flashes down the track at 42 kph.

Shell-shocked

MAR MAR MIN and Khin Khin Hine looked shell-shocked. The women distance runners left their home country Burma on the last flight out before Sunday's military coup triggered shooting in the streets. Today they were standing on a vast green carpet screened by a brass band for a flag-raising ceremony as they entered the Seoul Olympic Games athletes' village. Wearing the traditional longyi, or sarong, they were shielded by their coaches from a mob of photographers.

Helicopter crashes

A HELICOPTER carrying two members of an Australian television crew and two South Koreans crashed into the sea near the Olympic yachting regatta yesterday. Games officials said.

Stomach bug

WEST GERMAN high jumper Carlo Thraenhart said a stomach bug has left him so weak he may have to pull out of the Olympics. Thraenhart, who holds the world indoor best mark of 2.42 metres, said he had lost weight because of the infection.

Travel agencies

SOUTH AFRICAN travel agencies may sue organisers of the Seoul Olympic Games because South Korean authorities have refused visas to South African tourists to the Games, a representative said yesterday.

Japanese team

THE Japanese team will not withdraw from the Olympics in the event of the death of Emperor Hirohito, reported to be critically ill, a team official said yesterday.

Boxing team

THE US Olympic boxing team finally admitted defeat yesterday in their fight to have disqualified middleweight (75 kg) Anthony Hembrick reinstated.

Track team

INDIA's all-women Olympic track team is a sign that anti-female prejudice is breaking down in a country where hundreds of brides are killed each year over dowry demand and widows are sometimes expected to die on funeral pyres with their husbands.

Brendt spurned

WEST GERMAN swimmer Jens-Peter Brendt, who defected from East Germany three years ago, said yesterday his former teammates are systematically spurning him.

Pakistan rout Kenya to head group



Tariq Sheikh

SEOUL, Sept. 20. (Agencies): Olympic champions Pakistan followed their 5-1 win over Spain on Sunday with a 8-0 thrashing of Kenya in the men's hockey tournament here today.

Pakistan, with this victory, head their group on goal difference from Australia. Tariq Sheikh scored twice in each half to take his tally to five goals, the same as Mark Huger who scored twice as Australia beat Argentina 4-0.

Scored Pakistan, who led 4-0 at the interval, had two of their other goals scored by Shahbaz Ahmed while Mohib-ur-Rehman and Zahid Sharif got one each.

West Germany and the Netherlands, both seeded to reach the semifinals, were held to draws.

West Germany drew 1-1 with India and the Dutch, who had beaten Spain in their last five

encounters, conceded a last-minute goal in their 1-1 stalemate against them.

After two series of group matches only three of the 12 teams have the maximum points — Pakistan and Australia in Group A and the Soviet Union in Group B.

The Soviet Union, who defeated eight times Olympic champions India on Sunday, followed up with a 3-1 defeat of South Korea. Igor Davydov, Mikhail Bukatin and Victor Deputatov were their marksmen.

Britain were the day's other winners, their 3-0 triumph over Canada taking them into second place in Group B.

The West Germans, who were without top forward Stefan Blocher, fell behind to the 11th-seeded Indians after half an hour when Jude Felix scored a fine

solo goal. But Michael Hilgers equalised within four minutes.

Ignacio Escude spoiled the Dutch team's day when he scored from a penalty corner to cancel out Hendrik Kootman's 53rd minute penalty conversion.

Spain marked out playmaker Marc Delissen and, though they were often forced on to defence, they created more chances than the Dutch.

Standings Standings (tablets under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Group A						
Pakistan	2	0	0	13	1	4
Australia	2	0	0	11	1	4
Netherlands	2	0	1	5	2	3
Spain	2	0	1	1	6	1
Argentina	2	0	2	1	9	0
Kenya	2	0	2	1	15	0
Group B						
Soviet Union	2	2	0	4	1	4
India	2	1	0	5	2	3
West Germany	2	0	1	1	2	1
India	2	0	1	1	2	1
South Korea	2	0	1	3	5	1
Canada	2	0	2	1	6	0

Stylish Brazil crush Australia

SEOUL, Sept. 20. (Reuters): Brazil, playing samba-style soccer, brought Australia crashing back to earth in the Olympic tournament today.

The ebullient Romario was Brazil's architect and chief tormentor of the Australians. He scored all the goals in the 3-0 win and was deoed a fourth by a Jeffrey Oliver penalty save.

In complete contrast to the form shown by their South American rivals, Argentina slumped to their second defeat in Group C going down 2-1 to the

Soviet Union. Brazil, beaten finalists in the 1984 Olympics, never gave Australia a chance to repeat their surprise Group D win over Yugoslavia on Sunday.

Sensation Their build-ups were crisp and Romario, Brazil's new striking sensation, took his goals with cool authority.

First-half goals from Igor Dobrovolski and Alexei Mikhailichenko gave the Soviet Union the upper hand against a strangely lacklustre Argentina.

Even a second-half penalty from Carlos Alfaro Moreno failed to liven up the Argentines whose chances of qualifying for the quarter-finals are now very slim.

South Korea disappointed huge home support by failing to capitalise on their superiority over the United States in Group C. The South Koreans' poor finishing was the main feature of a goalless draw.

Yugoslavia, bronze medalists in Los Angeles, defeated Nigeria 3-1 in Group D.

National pride

SEOUL, Sept. 20. (Reuters): East bloc nations view the Seoul Olympics as an arena to prove their superiority over the West — at least in sport — and a Moscow institute has forecast the Soviet Union will top the medal league with 48 golds.

Experts in East bloc sport said today that while national pride was just as crucial for Americans, they did not regard the Olympics as a purely political event.

"The East bloc nations, especially Moscow as the chief representative of their ideology, view Olympic victories as a measure of political health," said Jim Riordan.

Sisters-in-law bid for five Games golds

SEOUL, Sept. 20. (Reuters): Florence Griffith-Joyner is the fastest woman in athletics history. Her sister-in-law Jackie Joyner-Kersey is the most versatile.

Together the two prodigiously gifted Americans stand to win a total of five gold medals when the Seoul Olympics athletics programme explodes into action on Friday.

The women's track and field programme promises to be one of the most compelling ever staged. For the first time since 1976 the flamboyant American women's track team will clash with the highly disciplined East Germans in Olympic competition.

Dominance To add further spice the powerful Soviet team will be striving to maintain their dominance in the middle and long distance track events.

The initial focus of attention is certain to be the exotic Griffith-Joyner, who slashed the women's 100 metres record to a remarkable 10.49 seconds in July.

Griffith-Joyner has been noted in the past mostly for her array of spectacular running costumes.

But as her performances this year have shown she is also a sprinter of immense natural talent conditioned by a punishing training regime.

Griffith-Joyner, who will anchor the US 4x100 metres relay team, starts favourite in the



Griffith-Joyner, wearing one of her many original designs, prepares for her events. (Reuters wirephoto)

100 and 200 metres.

Her primary challenge will come from team-mate and defending champion Evelyn Ashford and two East Germans, world double sprint champion Silke

Moeller and the talented Heike Drechsler.

Moeller emerged as the latest in an illustrious line of great East German sprinters when she sped to victory in the 100 and 200 at

last year's Rome World Championships.

Drechsler, who has yet to say whether she will run both sprint events, is the co-world record holder over 200, the world silver medalist over 100 and for good measure she is also the European long jump champion.

Joyner-Kersey, the sister of Griffith-Joyner's husband Al, continues to set new standards in the heptathlon.

She extended her world record to 7,215 points in the US trials in July and there is no challenger in sight who can deny her an Olympic title.

The long jump will be a different story. Joyner-Kersey won the world title last year ahead of Drechsler, who was suffering from injury problems.

This year the East German golden girl has made a full recovery, is jumping at her best and is determined to pick up at least one title in her first Olympics.

Both, though, may have to settle for the minor medals if Soviet Galina Chistyakova reproduces the form which saw her soaring to the current world record this year.

Barring accidents, two events already look comparatively straightforward.

Bulgarian Stefka Kostadinova is in a different League from her rivals in the high jump, and the 100 metres hurdles is likely to be a battle between her compatriots Yordanka Dookova

and Ginka Zagorcheva.

Zagorcheva stole the limelight last year when she broke the world record and won the world title hut European champion Donkova is now back to her best, reclaiming the world record this year from her great rival.

The 1,500 and 3,000 metres promise to be two of the most dramatic races of the Games.

American Mary Slaney rocked the East Europeans with two glorious exhibitions of front running in the 1983 World Championships to clinch both titles.

Tangled

She ran only the 3,000 at the Los Angeles Olympics but her dreams were shattered when she tangled with South African-born Brian Zola Budd and crashed to the track in the final.

Slaney has chosen both events again this year with her best title hope likely to be the 3,000.

Romania's Maricica Puica, now aged 38, will defend her 3,000 title and Dutchwoman Elly van Hulst, who defeated Slaney in Zurich last month, is another major threat.

World champion Tatiana Samolenko starts favourite for the 1,500 with Slaney and Romanian Paula Ivan her main challengers.

Ivan, who is coached by Puica's husband, has made a dramatic improvement this year, winning the overall Graod Prix woman's title and setting the year's fastest time.



Lewis works out during a training session. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seoul Olympics much tougher, says Lewis

SEOUL, Sept. 20. (Reuters): Carl Lewis regards himself as an Olympic pioneer charting unexplored territory in attempting to win four gold medals at successive Games.

Lewis said today there was "no comparison" between his achievements at the last Games in Los Angeles, when he won four gold medals to emulate the 1936 feat of fellow-American Jesse Owens, and his bid to defend his titles here.

Comparison "It's much tougher this time," Lewis said. "The athletes are better. I'm better and the timetable is tighter."

There's no comparison. To 1984 they said Jesse Owens had done it and could I duplicate it.

"Now it's going into new territory. It's a new situation."

Lewis, who will become the third highest gold medal winner in Olympic track and field history if he successfully defends his

crowns, said the controversy surrounding the US sprint relay squad had not interfered with his preparation.

"That's a minor distraction. Anyway life's all about distractions," he said.

"Nothing is more of a distraction than the aura of the Olympics. The last Olympics were big but these are bigger," he said as he joked with reporters at the athletes' village track after his final workout prior to Friday's start of competition.

Allegations that the simmering row between Lewis and US relay coach Russ Rogers had boiled over again yesterday were denied by the pair.

Rogers said: "Everything is okay between us." For his part, Lewis confirmed his commitment to the 4x100 metres event and added: "I like to run any leg. I'm not going to jeopardise the US team's chances of winning for my own personal gain."

SPORTS

OLYMPIC TENNIS COMPETITION GETS UNDER WAY

Edberg edges Skoff in opener



Edberg: overcomes Skoff

SEOUL, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Stefan Edberg tried to stroll past Austrian court jester Horst Skoff in the Olympic tennis competition today and almost got lost on the way.

The Wimbledon champion, swept up by the atmosphere of the Seoul Games, obviously lacked competitive edge as he launched the first Olympic tennis tournament for 64 years.

Smile

Skoff, whose clowning infuriated John McEnroe at Wimbledon, sported the constant grin which has become his trademark and thought he had something to smile about.

When the Austrian got too close to the net to reach a lob, he headed the ball back to Edberg instead, raising laughter from the thin centre-court and a grin from the Swede.

But the shock of being pushed into a first set tiebreaker roused Edberg as from a dream and he piled on the pace to win his first-round match 7-6-6-3.

"It felt a little bit strange to go

out there today. It was nice for once to not have to think about things like defending your ranking," Edberg said.

The other top seeds also found life tougher than expected with Russian Andrei Chesnokov, the number eight, going out to Dutchman Michiel Schapers.

John Fitzgerald of Australia was the first seed casualty in the morning session. The number 14 lost 6-4 4-6 6-2 6-2 to Canadian doubles specialist Grant Connell.

Third-seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia lost the opening set against West Germany's Eric Jelen and was pushed into a tiebreaker in the fourth before winning 5-7-6-1 6-2-7-6 to line up a meeting with Britain's Jeremy Bates.

Number five seed Brad Gilbert of the United States was out through a tough second set by Dane Michael Tausen, ranked 411 places below him, in a bad-tempered match in searing heat. The American won 6-2-7-5-6-1. Gilbert and Tausen took it in turns to rant at the umpire over

line calls and scream with anguish at their own errors.

Chesnokov proved no match for Schapers, 43rd in the world, on the hardcourt surface at the Olympic Park.

Schapers, who lost the second set on a double fault, served up ace after ace, including one for matchpoint, to win 6-3-5-7-6-0-6-2.

Of the other seeds playing today, Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, Amos Mansdorf, the number 12, and Yugoslav Slobodan Zivjovic, number 15, all eased into the second round.

Ousted

Tenth seed Hlasek knocked out unranked Bermudian Stephen Alger 6-3 6-4 6-2. Zivjovic dumped Dane Morten Christensen 7-5 6-2 6-4 and Mansdorf ousted local Man Yoo Jin-Sun 6-2-6-4-7-5.

Haidi's Ronald Agener, the 11th seed, retired injured after spraining his foot. He was trailing Mexico's Leonardo Lavalle 3-6 6-3 6-2-1.



● Mihaly Kovacs of Hungary is sandwiched between Kim Tae-il (left), Choi Suk-lee (centre) and Park Do-Hun of South Korea during their Olympic handball match yesterday. South Korea won the match 22-20. (Reuters wirephoto)

Brazilians to play their game against Americans

SEOUL, Sept. 20, (Reuters): The US basketball team may be out for revenge but Brazil just wants to have fun when the two clash in the Olympic men's tournament tomorrow.

The US Olympic champions stuttered to a 76-70 win over an inspired Canada today. They next face free-flowing Brazil, who handed them a shock defeat in the Pan American Games final last year.

Exception

The man chiefly responsible for their misery, Oscar Schmidt, is still happily firing away.

"We know they want their revenge," he said. "We don't care about that, we are just going to play our game."

The Brazilians' game is to run and gun, with three-point tries the rule rather than the exception.

Schmidt, who scored 36 second-half points in the Pan-Am triumph, scored 44 in Brazil's 130-108 victory over China today.

The smooth, 2.04-metre Schmidt led few scoring chances slip away. In the first half against China, he touched the ball 26 times on offence and took 22 shots. He was fouled twice before he could pull the trigger.

The Americans were frustrated by the methodical play of Canada. They will have no such worry with Brazil.

Schmidt's fast shooting style has set the tone for the team.

Number two scorer Marcel Souza pulled up to launch a three-point try against China on a three-on-one fast break with two team-mates waiting under the basket.

"Our way of life is not to worry so much about everything," he said. "Life is just a game. So we decide to play our funny game, shooting fireworks. It's always happy to play basketball."

"I expect they will have the spirit of revenge, but I hope they're not angry. We're not angry at all," Souza said.

The outcome of today's Group B clash between the undefeated teams is not crucial to reaching the quarterfinals but it could affect the quality of opposition each team meets.

Four teams from each six-team group will advance to the quarterfinals after the five-game round-robin.

Yugoslavia remained the only unbeaten squad in Group A by battering Candelaria team Central African Republic 102-61.

The Soviet Union, who lost to Yugoslavia in their opening game, beat Australia 91-69, while Puerto Rico handed South Korea their second defeat by taking a 79-74 victory.

In the day's other Group B match, Spain rebounded from their 44-point defeat by the Americans to crush Egypt 113-70.

Australian team considers abandoning Pakistan tour

KARACHI, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Australian cricketers were considering abandoning their tour of Pakistan today after the first Test ended in acrimony over the state of the wicket and the local umpires.

The team will do some re-thinking and decide about the future of the tour, "captain Allan Border told reporters after Pakistan had won by an innings and 188 runs. "If the management insist on completing the tour then we will play under protest."

Border described the wicket as the worst he had ever seen for a Test match. "What are you going to do if you don't feel you have a chance? It's a conspiracy from the word go," he said.

The players were holding a meeting at their Karachi hotel. The Australians, the first side to tour Pakistan since England's bad-tempered visit last winter, are due to play two more Tests, three one-day internationals and a three-day game.

Manager Colin Egar declined to comment on the game, saying: "We have already stated our position and nothing has changed."

Australian coach Bob Simpson praised his team for showing discipline on the field. Some of the batsmen showed displeasure at being given out, but none disputed the decisions at the wicket.

"The boys handled themselves very well although they were subject to pressure and a lot of unusual decisions," Simpson said. "We did not get one leg before decision but Pakistan got six. It seems strange."

The Pakistanis have dismissed complaints about the wicket, saying it was the same for both teams and Pakistan had managed to score 469 far nine declared.

Manager Intikhab Alam said his side had won fairly and squarely. "We have outclassed the Australians," he said. "It would be cruel to suggest that the Pakistani victory was due to any reason other than their good performance."

"It was unfair of the Australians to criticise the umpiring. They would have performed well had they applied themselves to cricket. But they got embroiled in other things."

India rejects England's suggestions

NEW DELHI, Sept. 20, (Reuters): India yesterday rejected suggestions it should compensate England for the almost certain cancellation of this winter's cricket tour.

"There is no question whatsoever of any compensation," said Ranbir Singh Mahendra, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Visas

The proposed 11-week tour was effectively scuppered when the Indian government said captain Graham Gooch and seven other players on a United Nations blacklist because of their links with South Africa would not be given visas.

English Test and County Cricket Board chief executive Alan Smith said on Sunday the question of compensation would certainly be raised if the tour did not go ahead.

Swiss seek big win in Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Switzerland will be seeking a high-scoring start to their 1990 World Cup qualifying campaign when they meet Luxembourg in the opening European Group Seven qualifying match here tomorrow.

Swiss coach Daniel Jeandupeux, with his sights firmly set on the 1990 finals in Italy, has told his players he expects more than a repeat of the meagre 1-0 victory Switzerland achieved when the teams last met in 1973.

Luxembourg, a mostly part-time team including only two professional players, are widely considered to be the whipping boys of European soccer. They have not won an international

match since 1970 when they beat Turkey 2-0.

Switzerland, who last qualified for the World Cup finals in England in 1966, were beaten 2-0 at home by Yugoslavia last month and need a good win to restore their confidence and keep alive veteran Heinz Hermann's ambition of playing in the finals for his country.

Hermann, 30, captain of Neuchatel Xamax, is poised to win his 88th cap tomorrow and knows the Italian finals represent his last chance of playing a world soccer's premier tournament.

He said: "This is a match we have to win and impressively. I believe the poor match we had

against Yugoslavia is good for us. We will now definitely have to concentrate 100 per cent in Luxembourg for a solid start on the road to Italy."

After the defeat by Yugoslavia, Jeandupeux recalled Servette Geneva's experienced Lucien Favre to bolster a suspect midfield. Favre was out of international soccer for four years.

The Swiss coach, who named four uncapped players in his 22-man squad, is expected to give Lucerne defender Urs Birrer and Neuchatel midfielder Robert Lei-Ravelin their first caps.

Luxembourg's two French-based professionals, Guy Hellers and Robby Langers, are fit but

injury rules out attacking midfielder Theo Malget who plays in the West German Third Division. His place is taken by Jean-Paul Girres, who last won a cap two years ago.

Teams: Luxembourg—John van Rijswijk, Hubert Meunier, Marcel Bossi, Carin Weiss, Pierre Petry, Jean-Paul Girres, Guy Hellers, Gerard Jeitz, Theo Sholten, Robby Langers, Armin Krings.

Switzerland (probable)—Joel Carmichael, Alain Geiger, Thomas Schuppert, Martin Weber, Urs Birrer (or Patrice Matz), Robert Lei-Ravelin, Heinz Hermann, Lucien Favre, Beat Sutter, Kuburkyilmaz, Alain Sutter.

Union outclass Siddiqui

UNION Cricket Club, Bright Stars and Morning Star made a thundering start to their 1988/89 season with easy victories over Siddiqui, YMCA and Capri cricket clubs in Malhotra Trophy matches, organised by Unity Cricketers, on Friday.

Union started the rout in the morning with a seven-wicket win over Siddiqui, last year's semi-finalists.

Caught

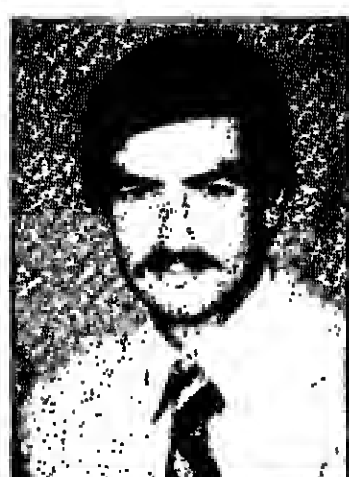
Union after winning the toss, opted to field with Siddiqui sending openers Arif and Amjad to face the new ball attack of Kafaid and Azam. At 16, Arif was caught off Kafaid for 4.

A second-wicket partnership between Amjad (22) and Shahid Mustafa (33) repaired the damage and Siddiqui reached 80 for 3 in 16 overs.

After that six batsmen failed to register double figures and Siddiqui were all out for 132 in 27 overs. Other contributions came from Shafeeq (22) and Asif Iqbal (26 n.o.).

For Union, Arshad was main wicket-taker with 4 for 20 in 6 overs.

Union's innings were built around the solid partnership of 74 runs between Abid (33) with 2 sixes, and captain Farakh (52) who hit five fours and one six. Azam, unbeaten on 27 with two sixes was ably supported by



Amjad Bashir

Jamil and Union finally won by 7 wickets.

Capri, batting against Morning Star, managed to get a good score of 162 for 5 in 24 overs. Useful contributions from Adnan (32) Masood (23) Safim (17) and Irfan (52) enabled them to reach this total.

Chasing 163 for victory newcomers Morning Star were 20 for one in the 3rd over.

The Bashir brothers, Anjum (28) and Amjad (46) plundered runs off the Capri attack taking the total to 94 before Anjum was dismissed by Tariq. Anjum Raza took over from his namesake and blasted the Capri attack almost

at will hitting 6 huge sixes in his breezy innings of 40 not out. Tanweer kept him company with an unbeaten 16. Morning Star overtaking Capri to eventually reach 166 for 4.

At the Oval, Bright Stars' openers, Zulqarnain (67) and Aslam (60) put on 135 runs. Both played with complete ease and got the runs in only 17 overs. Arun (20) and Mohammed Ali (14 n.o.) enabled Bright Stars to reach a formidable total of 207 for 5 in 26 overs.

For YMCA Inuran took 3 for 59 in his 6 overs. YMCA started proceedings with Sandeep and Amroose facing the new ball attack of Ahmed and Mohammed Ali. Sandeep started his innings with a flourish getting 17 in only 2 overs. Mohammed Ali tempted him to cut a short ball and saw Zulqarnain hold a comfortable chest high catch at slip.

Useful: Mohammed Ali and Rahnin went on to torment the middle order batsmen. Only Hafiz (16), Rohit (18) and Ali (19) contributed useful scores as YMCA were all out for a paltry 95.

Mohammed Ali with four, Ahmed and Robin took each were the wicket-takers for Bright Stars.

Ali Mulla failed to turn up for their match against Falcon who were awarded a walkover.

Asim blast Young Star



Abdul Rahman

ASIM Cricket Club beat Young Star Cricket Club by 10 wickets in a friendly match at the Airport ground on Friday.

Young Star, batting first, were only able to score 110 for the loss of nine wickets in their 20 allotted overs. Fnuze 29, Saeed 12, Mujahid 17 and Tahir with 15 were the only batsmen to reach the double figures.

For Asim, Waheed took three wickets for 11 runs while Zafar Iqbal got two for seven with Saeed, Saif and Khalid taking one each.

Asim's openers, Abdul Rahman and Zafar Iqbal, got the required runs in only 14.3 overs without being separated. Abdul Rahman scored 30 with the help of two sixes and six fours. Zafar Iqbal hit five fours in his 34.

Athletics tame Twins to take NL West title

NEW YORK, Sept. 20, (AP): The Oakland Athletics clinched the American League West division title last night with a 5-3 victory over the defending World Series champions Minnesota Twins.

"It was just a coincidence that we were playing the Twins tonight," Parker said of capturing the title and defeating the rival Twins in the same game.

Dave Stewart, 19-12, gave up eight hits and all three runs in 6.1 innings, striking out six. He allowed two hits after the third inning.

In other games, Toronto beat Boston 5-4, Milwaukee defeated California 5-2, New York beat Baltimore 3-2, Cleveland beat Detroit 4-3, Chicago beat Texas 7-3 and Seattle beat Kansas City 4-0.

Reds 7, Padres 2: Danny Jackson scattered seven hits in 7.1 innings to gain his 22nd victory for the Reds. Jackson, 22-7, walked three and struck out two in gaining his fourth victory in his last five decisions.

Paul O'Neill drove in three runs, including two with his first homer since Aug. 11, to highlight the Reds' attack against Ed Whitson, 12-11. O'Neill also singled home a run off reliever Dave Leiper in the seventh.

Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 4: Tony Fernandez hit a two-run single to cap a five-run seventh-inning rally.

Boston led 3-0 on a two-run single by Todd Benzing and an RBI single by Jim Rice in the first. Then Rance Mulliniks hit a sacrifice fly, Kelly Gruber hit an RBI single and Manny Lee hit a routine grounder to Marty Barrett's left.

Los Angeles Dodger pitching ace Orel Hershiser extended his shutout string to 40 innings yesterday with a 1-0 victory over the Houston Astros.

It was the second straight 1-0 win for Hershiser, who beat the Atlanta Braves last time out. Last night's four-hit-hitter gave him four straight shutouts and a shot at Don Drysdale's record shutout string of 58 2-3 innings.

The victory reduced the Dodgers' magic number for clinching the National League West to five games.

Pakistan score innings win over Australia

KARACHI, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Pakistan thrashed Australia by an innings and 188 runs in the first of their three cricket Tests, a match marred by a row over the umpiring and the pitch.

Pakistan spinners Abdul Qadir, Iqbal Qasim and Tauseef Ahmad wrapped up the remaining five wickets of Australia's second innings before lunch today, the final day.

Pakistan amassed 469 for nine declared and then skittled out the visitors for 165 and 116.

Brilliance

It was a comprehensive victory, dominated by captain Javed Miandad's mighty innings of 211 and the brilliance of Pakistan's famed spinners on a tailor-made wicket.

Leg-spinner Qasim, playing in his 48th Test, finished with match figures of nine for 84. Qadir took five wickets and Tauseef three.

Australia's batsmen never looked as if they knew which way the ball would bounce and they had only a single innings worthy of note.

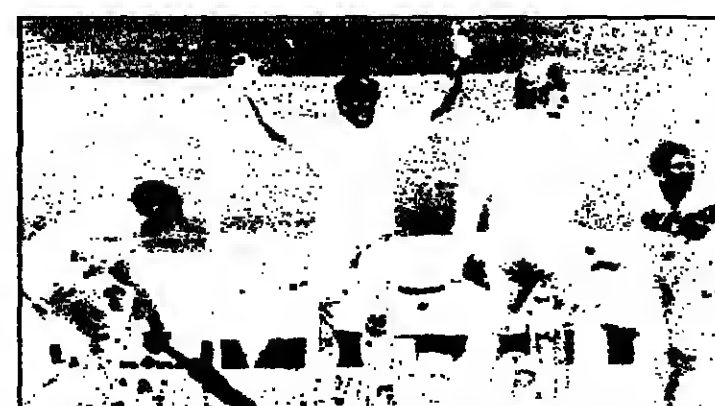
Only spin bowler Peter Taylor can look back on his 54 not out, double the next highest Australian score, with any satisfaction. But even this was no more than a rearguard action and at 325 minutes was one of the slowest Test 50s ever.

Mostly the Australian batsmen were reduced to desperate and repetitive padding forward in their tormentors in a vain attempt to save the match.

The public row between the two camps gave a snur taste to Pakistan's victory. It began on the third day during the first Australian batting collapse.

Manager Colin Egar told reporters he had complained that the Karachi National Stadium wicket was too worn and asked for umpire Mahboob Shah not to be picked for the rest of the tour.

The Pakistani cricket board deplored the Australian action in protesting publicly and reaffirmed its confidence in Shah. The umpire accused Australia of intimidation and Miandad chipped in with an offer to let the tourists provide the umpires.



Steve Waugh tries to reach the crease as Salim Yousuf (right) stumped him. (Reuters wirephoto)

It was the second successive tour of Pakistan overshadowed by such a dispute. England's visit last winter degenerated into the now famous slanging match between captain Mike Gatting and local umpire Shaknir Rana when a day's play was lost.

The 40-day tour resumes on Friday in Faisalabad for the second of the three Tests. Australia resisted for half an

hour this morning before Qasim had all-mounder Steve Waugh easily stumped for 13. Soon afterwards the leg-spinner clean bowled captain Allan Border for 18 and Australia were 93 for seven.

Debutant wicketkeeper Ian Healy resisted stoutly but was well caught in deep guily by Shoaib Mohammad off Qadir for 21. Qadir had Tim May lbw

with the next ball and Tony Dodemaide was stumped off Tauseef.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN 1st innings 469 for nine declared (Javed Miandad 211, Shoaib Mohammad 94).

AUSTRALIA 1st innings 165 (P. Taylor 54, Iqbal Qasim five for 35).

AUSTRALIA 2nd innings (overnight 66 for five).

G. Marsh lbw b Tauseef Ahmad 16.

P. Taylor c Ejaz Ahmad b Asim Malik 2.

D. Boon b Iqbal Qasim 4.

D. Jones c Ejaz Ahmad b Abdul Qadir 2.

G. Wood lbw b Iqbal Qasim 15.

A. Border b Iqbal Qasim 18.

S. Waugh stumped Salim Yousuf b Iqbal Qasim 13.

I. Healy c Shoaib Mohammad b Abdul Qadir 21.

A. Dodemaide stumped Salim Yousuf b Tauseef Ahmad 2.

T. May lbw b Abdul Qadir 6.

B. Reid not out 8.

Extras (b-6 lb-7) 13.

Total all out (64.4 overs) 116.

Wicketfall: 1-4-2-10-3-15-4-46-5-80-6-80-7-93-8-104-9-104.

Bowling: Miandad Nazir 3-0-5-0, Asim Malik 2-2-0-1, Iqbal Qasim 25-14-49-4, Abdul Qadir 13-4-33-3, Tauseef Ahmad 21-4-13-16-2.

KIFCO trounce Lucky Star

KUWAIT International Finance Company (KIFCO) started its 1988/89 season on a winning note with an eight-wicket victory over Lucky Star at the KCL ground earlier this week.

Lucky Star won the toss, only thing that went in their favour, and elected to bat. The whole team managed to score only 66 runs in 18 overs for the loss of all their wickets.

Lucky Star had started their innings well, losing the first wicket at 42 but the later batsmen managed to score only 24 runs. Aqueed took six wickets for 24 runs while Mansoor-Khan got three for 20.

KIFCO opened their innings through Arshad Shams and Nasir. The latter was soon back in the pavilion alongside Pervaiz but Arshad and Sohail took KIFCO past the required score without further loss.

Arshad Shams hit an unbeaten 49 as KIFCO got the runs in only 12 overs. Sohail remained unbeaten on 10.

Varghese takes Strikers past D'Assisi

U.G. STRIKERS beat D'Assisi 3-1 in a Rothmans Gold Cup football tournament match at the Soor grounds over the weekend.

The game started with D'Assisi attacking their opponents goal and Rudy hitting the post early in the first half. Varghese gave Strikers the lead and Casimiro made it 2-0 a few minutes later. D'Assisi, however, reduced the margin before the end of the first half through Rudolf.

In the second half, D'Assisi fought well but found their opponents too good for them with Varghese increasing the margin to 3-1.

In the second match, Santos were awarded a walkover after Flying Arrows failed to turn up for the game.

On Friday, Rising Stars meet SUFA while Incredible take on Young Goats. The tournament is being organised by Salotte United.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Browns win

CLEVELAND, Sept. 20, (AP): Mike Pagan, Cleveland's third starting quarterback in three weeks, threw for 255 yards and two touchdowns last night, and the Browns' defense virtually shut down Eric Dickerson in the second half yesterday to beat the Indianapolis Colts 23-17.

Cup qualifier

PARIS, Sept. 20, (Reuters): France today named a 16-man squad to face for their opening World Cup qualifying soccer tie against Norway in Paris on September 28.

New confidence

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Australia's Mark Woodford, twice John McEnroe's conqueror this summer, won his first match at the Los Angeles men's tennis tournament yesterday and said his new confidence could take him higher in the world rankings.

Davis charged

LONDON, Sept. 20, (Reuters): Arsenal's Paul Davis, who broke rival midfielder Glen Cockerill's jaw with a punch, was charged by the English Football Association (FA) today with bringing soccer into disrepute.

Title fight

CORBEIL-ESSONNES, France, Sept. 20, (UPI): Frenchman Christophe Tiozzo retained his European middleweight title last night with a technical knock-out of Alfonso Redondo of Spain in the seventh round. Tiozzo, 25, improved his professional record to 21-0 and successfully defended his title for the second time.

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